The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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(*Tsz-ling-sing-chi-chow-kan* 刊週期星林孝)

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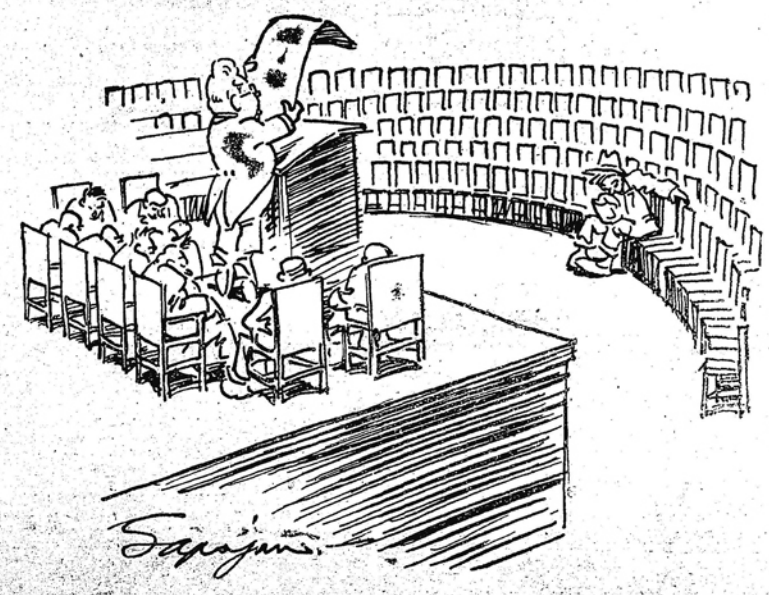

The Chairman—Yes. The Council can confidently rely upon the public feeling of the whole body of ratepayers . . .

THE CUSTOMS SURTAX

Powers Still Disinclined to Reply to China's Request for a Conference

Peking, Apr. 9.

No reply has yet been given by the Legations to the Chinese Government's request for a preliminary conference to discuss the increase of two and a half per cent. of Customs duties provided for in the Washington Nine Power Treaty.

It seems probable that separate replies will be sent, and here is no doubt that the French Government will make participation in such a conference contingent upon a satisfactory settlement of the gold franc case.

Several of the Legations have not yet received final instructions from their Governments about the matter.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

LINCHENG OUTRAGE

Further British and American Claims Filed: Others Likely to Follow

Peking, Apr. 10.

The British and American Legations have now submitted some additional claims, supplementary to the list recently published in connexion with the Lincheng outrage.

On behalf of its nationals, the British Legation claims an additional $70,800, while the American Legation claims a further $47,991.37 on behalf of eight of its rationals and may submit further claims later on behalf of the other Americans who suffered through the outrage.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Apr. 7.—The Sze Koo Chuan Shou, the four-volume library of the Manchu House, is to be sent to Shanghai for reprinting by the Commercial Press. Special arrangements are to be made for the transportation of this valuable collection. It is understood that these works will subsequently be offered for sale.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PREMIER NOT INTENDING TO RESIGN

Peking, Apr. 8.

The Chinese press to-day states that there is no truth in the reports that have been appearing in the Chinese newspapers off and on for weeks that Premier Sun Pao-chi would resign and a new Cabinet be formed by Mr. Wang Yu-chih, Chief Secretary of the Presidency. The papers say that on the contrary Mr. Wang is urging Premier Sun to ignore propaganda intended to undermine their friendship, and to carry on the Premiership, assured of the support of Mr. Wang and other friends whose names have been mentioned in the press as intriguing for the downfall of the Cabinet.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CABINET CHANGES IN PEKING

Vice-Minister of Justice Intending to Resign

Peking, Apr. 11.

It is reported to-day that Mr. Hsueh Tu-pi, Vice-Minister of Justice, intends to resign, and it is understood that the Cabinet contemplates transferring Mr. Chang Kuo-kan from the Ministry of Education to that of Justice; for this it would be necessary to transfer Dr. Wang Chung-huai from the Ministry of Justice to that of Education. Mr. Hsueh Tu-pi apparently desires chiefly to surrender the position of Acting Minister of Justice, and it is thought likely that he would be agreeable to retain the Vice-Ministership if a Minister of Justice took over the affairs of that department. A mandate containing these changes was sent to the President yesterday, but it has not yet been signed. President Tsao indicated the intention to discuss the matter with Premier Sun Pao-chi before taking action.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE MOHAMMEDANS AND PARLIAMENT

Peking, Apr. 11.

The Mohammedan gentry of Pengpu have submitted a request to the Ministry of the Interior that Chinese Turkestan be granted representation in Parliament. They have been asked to submit their petition to Parliament direct.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MORE PEKING PAPER

To Pay Salaries in Government Colleges: Finance Minister Anxious to Resign

Peking, Apr. 9.

It is learned from a semi-official source that, in order to meet the teachers' salaries and other expenses of the eight Government colleges, the Government has decided to issue $1,000,000 worth of treasury bonds secured on the suspended Russian Boxer indemnity.

It is semi-officially reported that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Mr. Wang Ko-ming, having fulfilled his undertaking to tide the Government over its immediate financial difficulties, is about to resign. Mr. Wang is expected to tender a report to the Cabinet at to-morrow's meeting and then tender his resignation to the President to-morrow evening.

April 10.

It is understood that Mr. Wang Ko-ming tendered a report on the financial situation and informed the Cabinet of his intention to resign. It is anticipated, however, that his resignation will be rejected by the President.

The members of both Houses of Parliament yesterday received 70 per cent. of a month's salary, and, as a result the bill of impeachment against Mr. Ko-ming has been laid over indefinitely.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS

Moscow Not Pleased at Being Found Out

Moscow, Apr. 17.

Disappointment is expressed at Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech at the Anglo-Russian Conference.

The "*Izvestia*" says that under the cloak of a Sunday sermon appear the hard demands of the British bankers, acceptance of which would change the whole socialistic Soviet system.—Reuter.

RENDITION OF THE MIXED COURT

Diplomatic Body Ready to Consent if Other Outstanding Questions Are Settled

IMPORTANT MATTERS REGARDING SHANGHAI

Peking, Apr. 12.

The Diplomatic Body informed the Waichiaopu on April 10 that it was prepared to discuss the rendition of the Shanghai Mixed Court, but in agreeing to such discussion, to which the Chinese Government attached much importance, the Diplomatic Body desired to point out that there were other outstanding matters affecting the welfare and development of the International Settlement of Shanghai, to a speedy solution of which the Diplomatic Body and the foreign communities of Shanghai attached no less importance.

Among these were enlargement and improvement of the port, extension of the present boundary of the Settlement and the question of Chinese and foreign representation on the Municipal Councils of the International Settlement and the adjoining Chinese areas.

The Diplomatic Body, therefore, asked the Chinese Government to embark in negotiations affecting these matters as well as the rendition of the Mixed Court.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE SELECTION OF A VICE-PRESIDENT

Possibility that Marshal Wu May Be Offered the Position

Peking, Apr. 8.

The "*Hsingpao*" is responsible for the report that Dr. C. T. Wang will leave here this evening for Loyang to offer his congratulations to Marshal Wu Pei-fu in connexion with the latter's birthday. The paper says that Dr. Wang will take advantage of this opportunity to put before Marshal Wu his views regarding the Sino-Russian negotiations.

Other Chinese papers say that a group of members of Parliament, under the leadership of Mr. Li Tsai-hung, started for Loyang last evening, and that it is generally believed that their visit is to pave the way for the selection of a Vice-President. They hint that Marshal Wu will be asked to accept the post himself. Other papers are of opinion that either Marshal Wu or Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan will be appointed Vice-President. They suggest that Marshal Wu wants the post and believe that Marshal Wu merely put forward the name of Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang in order to arouse opposition to General Lu's rival at Nanking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

EX-DIRECTOR OF TSINGTAO

Caught Again After Leaving City: The Missing $3,000,000

Tsingtao, Apr. 17.

Mr. Tsou Wen-wei, former Director-General of Affairs here, who mysteriously left the city last week during the questioning relative to the leak in the Treasury during the Hsiung *régime*, has been found by detectives in Tsinan.

Mr. Tsou was forced to choose between arrest and an immediate return here. He chose the latter alternative.

The investigation of the disappearance of public funds, amounting to $3,000,000, may now continue.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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THE POSITION IN REGARD TO TRADEMARK LAW REVIEWED

Retrospect of China's Undertakings to Protect Trademarks: The New Law's Sudden Appearance: Strong Foreign Objections and a Generally Unsatisfactory Position

Peking, Apr. 10.

The following is a review of the trademarks question:—The subject has been dealt with by notes and discussions so many times that it is difficult to understand the exact position without going back many years. It was first given an official character by the Mackay Treaty of 1902, when China undertook to afford protection to British trademarks against infringement, imitation or colourable imitation by Chinese. In the same treaty China undertook that the Superintendents of Northern and Southern Trade should establish offices within their respective jurisdiction under control of the Maritime Customs where foreign trademarks might be registered on payment of a reasonable fee.

JAPAN AND U. S. TREATIES.

In the Treaty between China and Japan of 1903 the Chinese Government agreed "to make and faithfully enforce such regulations as are necessary for preventing Chinese subjects from infringing registered trademarks held by Japanese subjects. It was further agreed that the Chinese Government should establish registration offices where foreign trademarks and copyrights, upon application for the protection of the Chinese Government, should be registered in accordance with the provisions of the regulations to be hereafter framed by the Chinese Government for the purpose of protecting trademarks and copyrights."

The Treaty between China and the United States of 1903 states that "China now agrees fully to protect any citizen or corporation of the United States in the exclusive use in the Empire of China of any lawful trademark to the exclusive use of which in the United States they are entitled, or which they have adopted and used, or intend to adopt and use as soon as registered, for inclusive use within the Empire of China. To this end the Chinese Government agrees to issue by its proper authorities proclamations, having the force of law, forbidding all subjects of China from infringing on, imitating, colourably imitating, or knowingly passing off an imitation of trademarks belonging to citizens of the United States, which shall have been registered by the proper authorities of the United States at such offices as the Chinese Government will establish for such purpose, on payment of a reasonable fee, after due investigation by the Chinese authorities, and in compliance with reasonable regulations."

The foregoing deals only with infringement by Chinese, but reciprocal protection of trademarks has been arranged between Britain on the one part and Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United States on the other, and by agreement between most of these countries.

A DIFFICULTY TO ADJUST.

The treaties of 1902 and 1903 show that China undertook to proclaim regulations having the force of law for the protection of foreign trademarks in China, but some misunderstanding has arisen in connexion with the "registration" by the Maritime Customs. This was undertaken by the Superintendents of Northern and Southern Trade only as a temporary measure, pending the establishment of registration offices by the Chinese Government. The filing of trade marks by the Customs has not been registration in the technical sense but merely a recording for purposes of future reference. The wording of the Customs Notification on this point is quite clear. It said: "Pending promulgation of regulations governing the registration of trademarks the (Shanghai and Tientsin) Customs accept applications for provisional filing of trademarks." Thus the protection enjoyed by foreign trademarks in China has been derived not from any recording or provisional registration by the Maritime Customs but from agreements in force between the Powers concerned and China and between the Foreign Powers themselves regarding mutual protection of their marks.

From the beginning the Powers were not satisfied with this recording by the Customs, and they kept on bringing the matter of the establishment of registration offices to the attention of the Chinese Government until 1904, when the Government submitted to the Diplomatic Body a set of regulations drafted by the Ministry of Commerce. This draft proved unacceptable to the Powers concerned, and in 1905 the Diplomatic Body sent to the Chinese Government a code embodying the views of their Governments. Some correspondence took place and the matter was then dropped until the end of 1906. The Chinese Government then forwarded to the legations a second draft. This was obviously based on the draft of 1904 and showed little if any consideration for the suggestions made by the Powers the previous year. It was also rejected.

LAW SUDDENLY PROMULGATED.

The subject was subsequently brought forward by the Powers in 1907, 1908 and many other occasions throughout the following 14 years, but no substantial progress was made until 1922, when the Associated British Chambers of Commerce submitted, through the British Legation, the draft of a trademarks law for China. The Chambers had taken great pains in drafting this law to make it acceptable to all the Powers concerned.

The draft was well received by the Chinese Government, and there then seemed a prospect at last of this long-standing question being settled satisfactorily. The Chinese Government took the matter in hand and in May, 1923, the Chinese Trademarks Law was suddenly promulgated. It was undoubtedly based principally on the foreign recommendations, and the first impression created in foreign circles was favourable. Careful study of the Law, however, brought to light several points which were considered potential sources of friction if not of injustice.

GENERAL DISSATISFACTION.

It was keenly felt that the Chinese Government, having taken a long step towards fulfilling its treaty obligations and meeting the requirements of modern trade, would have saved much anxiety and trouble if it had followed its former practice of referring the draft to the Legations before promulgation. That such reference was expected may be seen from the concluding sentence of the passages quoted from the treaty between China and the United States, namely, "and in compliance with reasonable regulations," while the precedent had been established in 1904 and confirmed in 1906.

Strong objection was shown by the foreign Chambers of Commerce at Shanghai and other treaty ports not so much to the Law itself as to the administration of the Law. What the Chambers of Commerce wanted principally was for a foreign expert to be employed in the Trademarks Bureau, but no definite step was taken by the Diplomatic Body until December 1, 1923. A Note was then sent to the Chinese Government requesting a general assurance that the new Law would not operate in a manner detrimental to foreign treaty rights.

THE LEGATIONS' FIRST DEMANDS.

No reply had been received to this Note on January 26, when the Diplomatic Body sent another Note to the Chinese Government giving three considerations and one essential condition on which the Powers would be prepared to accord recognition to the Trademarks Law. The Note objected to Article 10 of the Law, which gives the Trademarks Bureau the right to apply for a change of representatives applying for registration. This was characterized by the Note as arbitrary and useless and one that should be abolished. The second consideration was that foreign expert assistance should be employed in the Bureau in order to facilitate dealing with the complicated questions bound to arise. The third asked for an assurance that the Trademarks Gazette would publish fully and expeditiously all the registrations and all details connected therewith, adding that the value of this would be greatly enhanced if it were accompanied by a translation in English. The essential condition was that the period for registration should be extended so as to give six clear months from the date on which the Trademarks Law should be formally recognized by the Powers.

AN UNSATISFACTORY REPLY.

The Chinese Government took a long time to answer this Note, for the reply was not received until March 20. It was vague and non-committal. It agreed to extend the period for registration arbitrarily until next June. Compliance was expressed with "the request for an English supplement of the Trademarks Gazette," but this would contain only foreign registrations. With regard to the employment of foreign expert assistance the reply was particularly unsatisfactory, as it merely stated that such might be employed when found necessary.

It was found difficult to reconcile this vague reply with the good intentions that have been conceded to the Chinese Government in connection with the trademarks question. The Legations did not hesitate to describe it as unsatisfactory. They were, however, faced with a *fait accompli*. The position had been complicated by the fact that many foreign firms, principally Japanese and German, had already registered under the Law.

THE REGISTRATION MONOPOLY.

The foreign Chambers of Commerce had been bringing much pressure to bear not only upon their Legations but also upon their own Governments. The concern felt at Shanghai and abroad was increased by publication of a statement that the Chinese Government had given a monopoly to one Chinese firm for the issue of registration certificates. This was promptly denied by the Trademarks Bureau, but the report had created serious misgivings regarding the manner in which the Law would be applied, and further representations were made to the Legations at Peking. It became evident that the foreign Chambers of Commerce in China and abroad did not realize how far diplomatic methods towards China had changed in recent years, that the days had passed when peremptory demands would be put forward with the virtual certainty of compliance by the Chinese Government (a change which no one realizes more clearly than the Chinese themselves).

The Legations continued as opportunity offered to discuss the question with the Chinese officials concerned. That met with earnest assurances that the Chinese keenly desired to establish a department whose laws and administration would be fair to foreign trade as well as to Chinese, but throughout the whole of the negotiations the Chinese showed a peculiar disinclination to give a clear and binding assurance such as was asked for in the Note of December 1, and as the matter developed the dissatisfaction of the foreign Chambers of Commerce increased.

During the next two weeks the Chinese reply was considered abroad and in Peking. Further views were sent by the Chambers of Commerce to the Legations in Peking, and the impression created by the Chinese reply seems to have been much the same in all quarters.

INSISTANCE ON TREATY RIGHT.

On April 5 the Diplomatic Body sent a brief Note to the Waichiaopu stating that the assurances given by the Chinese Government were not sufficient for the Foreign Representatives in Peking to advise their Governments to recognize the Chinese Trademarks Law or to advise their nationals to register their trade marks with the new Trademarks Bureau. The Note pointed out that, whether or not their nationals registered their trademarks, cases of complaint would have to be dealt with in accordance with the stipulations of the treaties concerning the settlement of disputes between Chinese and the nationals of the Treaty Powers.

The present position, therefore, is that while the foreign Powers have not recognized the Law foreign firms may register if they feel so inclined but the Trademarks Law will not free China from her treaty obligations to protect foreign trademarks. In the event of cause for complaint being found by foreign firms the aid of their Legations will have to be invoked. Each complaint is thus likely to become a separate diplomatic question, involving trouble and delay to all concerned. The Chinese Government, the Legations, and foreign firms will be saddled with needless work. Official and commercial business will be retarded. The Chinese Government will have to deal diplomatically with questions which ought to be settled expeditiously and satisfactorily by the Trademarks Bureau. The loss of revenue to the Bureau will be a small matter compared with the failure to have the Law recognized by the Powers, and make the Bureau an organ competent to deal finally and satisfactorily with its own affairs.

PLEA FOR REASONABLENESS.

In these circumstances it may be hoped that the Chinese Government will see its way to meet the very reasonable demands made by the Diplomatic Body, take the necessary steps to ensure the efficient administration of the new Law, and thereby set up machinery in China for the protection of foreign and Chinese trademarks, which has become an urgent necessity owing to the industrial development in China.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DR. KOO BACK AT WORK

The New Danish Minister

Peking, Apr. 11.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has resumed attendance at his office, although he has not completely recovered from his recent illness. The new Danish Minister, Mr. Kauffman, called on Dr. Koo at noon to-day and discussed the presentation of his credentials to the President. The date for this ceremony has not yet been fixed.

The Belgian Minister, M. Everts, who is shortly leaving for home, also called on Dr. Koo this morning to bid him good-bye.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ELECTORAL JURISDICTION IN KIAOCHOU

Peking, Apr. 11.

The Kiaochou Citizens' Association recently sent a despatch to the Cabinet asking for information regarding the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Kiaochou for several years has sent no representatives to Parliament and the citizens of that port did not know whether their elections should be carried out under the jurisdiction of the Hsien authorities or that of the Tupan of the port. The Ministry of the Interior has sent a reply stating that the elections must come under the authority of the Tsimo Magistrate.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MARSHAL WU TO VISIT PEKING

Peking, Apr. 11.

A Chinese local newspaper states that Marshal Wu Pei-fu is expected to come to Peking on the conclusion of his birthday celebrations, which are now in progress at Loyang. It is believed that the object of this rumoured visit would be a discussion with the Government of Sino-Russian affairs and the political situation in the South and West.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

"CIRCULATING NOTES" AND OCTROI DUES

Strong Protest by Chinese Chamber of Commerce as to Non-acceptance

Peking, Apr. 12.

A delegation from the Peking Chinese Chamber of Commerce, headed by Mr. Sun Hsiao-shih, Chairman of the Chamber, went to the Cabinet Office this morning with the object of lodging a protest against the action of the Peking Octroi authorities who recently announced that "circulating notes" would no longer be received in payment of octroi dues. The petitioners request that the order shall be cancelled. Hitherto 20 per cent. of octroi duties could be paid in these notes, which have depreciated greatly in value. A statement on the back of each note states that they are negotiable for payment of telegraph and postal dues, railway charges and octroi dues.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHIHLI PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

Division of Districts

Peking, Apr. 12.

Marshal Wang Chen-ping, Tuli of Chihli, arrived in Peking today at noon and called on the President this afternoon. It is understood that he came here to discuss with the President and the Cabinet the proposal to separate the Metropolitan Area, Suiyuan, Chahar and Jehol districts from the Chihli Provincial Assembly. Marshal Wang will stay at the residence of Mr. Wu Ching-lian during his stay in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. WANG KO-MING

Peking, Apr. 12.

It is reported that Mr. Wang Ko-ming again forwarded to the President this morning the resignation which was sent back to him yesterday.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Apr. 13.

It is reported that Mr. Wang Ko-ming, having sent in his resignation again yesterday, will leave for the Western Hills today for a rest from the cares of office.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S OVERSTAFFED CIVIL SERVICE

Peking, Apr. 13.

The difficulties met with in providing funds for the Cabinet staff appear to have brought to the notice of the authorities concerned the large number of junior officials, attendants and coolies who are on the pay roll of that department. It is asserted that the number of these employees is three times that of the official establishment. Instructions have now been given for all superfluous employees to be dismissed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ANTI-SOVIET MOVEMENT IN KIRIN

Peking, Apr. 13.

The Kirin Provincial Assembly, it is reported on good authority, has issued a circular telegram to the provincial assemblies urging that measures should be undertaken to bring about the recall to Russia of the Soviet representative in Peking. Mr. Huang Ming-lan has filed a bill in the Senate on similar lines. It suggests that the Government should be requested to ask the Soviet Government to recall Mr. Karakhan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA AND BOLIVIA

Peking, Apr. 13.

The Chinese Government has decided to appoint Mr. Oyang Keng, Chargé d'Affaires in Chile, its delegate to sign the commercial treaty with Bolivia.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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LEADING ARTICLES

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THE MISSIONARY AND HIS CRITICS

Apr. 14.

WE are all familiar with the vagaries of the globe-trotter turned author. His effusions are usually interesting to stay-at-homes and frequently add to the gaiety of exiles in the lands he describes, though, occasionally, they raise the question whether, after all, truth is really stranger than fiction. It is seldom that Nemesis so swiftly overtakes the offender as in the case of T. Simpson Carson, who was compelled to render an apology to the Rev. Fred. Brown, formerly a missionary in Tientsin, pay an indemnity and withdraw his book from circulation. The details were published in our issue of the 8th instant. The probabilities are that Mr. Carson sinned in Dr. Johnson's good company through "ignorance, pure ignorance." He may have been unfortunate too, in his friends, for he who takes his Chinese history from the tales of sea captains on the coast or from loungers near "the longest bar in the Far East" had better imitate him who was "so wary wise he scarce received for gospel what the Church believed." There are some seven thousand missionaries in China; indeed, we might parody the remark of a recent distinguished visitor to our city and say that China is "infested with missionaries" and yet it is possbile for an innocent globe-trotter to rub shoulders with them and never recognize them. The Shanghai Missionary Association has recognized the gravity of this unfortunate state of affairs and appointed a committee to deal with it. These gentlemen have formed themselves into a "Traveller's Aid Association." They intend to have a notice card hung in the vestibules of all hotels and in a prominent place on the liners which make Shanghai a port of call. These will notify travellers who wish to see something of the missionary work done in this city that if they will ring up a certain telephone number they will have a guide placed at their disposal and trips will be arranged covering a period of from one hour to a whole day, in which they may acquire information that will save them from the fate of the gentleman who was unfortunate enough to give names and dates in his fairy tale of missionary activities in 1900, and so rendered himself liable for an action for defamation of character and was mulcted in heavy damages.

Missionaries are, in a sense, public men and are engaged in an enterprise which cannot be carried on without appeals for public support. They are therefore targets for criticism as are statesmen, municipal councillors and even editors of newspapers. No one in such a position may resent criticism if it is fair and expressed in language of parliamentary propriety. And so we venture to say, with apologies to our missionary friends, that we think there is a certain amount of truth in the popular belief that missionaries are "queer." Long ago Macaulay described the Puritans as men in whom "One overpowering sentiment had subjected to itself pity and hatred, ambition and fear." Now men of one idea are always interesting and unavoidably eccentric for, the mind being dominated by one thought, has little room left for the common trivialities that make up our daily life. The pioneers in the world-wide missionary enterprise which historians will, perhaps, regard as the outstanding characteristic of the century we live in, were men of this type. Read Longford's "Story of Korea" and marvel at the endurance of the Catholic missionaries who, little more than a generation ago, stole into the Hermit Kingdom and, after enduring untold hardships, were tortured and barbarously executed in the market place. And there was never lack of volunteers eager to take the place of those who had thus perished. Or, to take a less gruesome example, it is not so very long since there passed away a missionary in China who was obsessed with the idea that when the gospel had been preached in all the cities of this, then unopened, land the golden age would come. With a single coolie to carry his exiguous luggage he traversed the country delivering what he called his "message" in every place he passed through until the route of his wanderings, when traced on a map, looked like a projected railway line. What the people who listened to this strange apparition of a foreign devil, who talked to them of things utterly beyond their comprehension, thought of him it is impossible to say, but they would certainly have agreed that he was "queer."

This type of missionary, fairly common some thirty years ago, is now rapidly passing away. Indeed, the high water mark of missions in China was reached in April, 1922, when the foreign missionaries in conference assembled in this city of Shanghai formally handed over to the Chinese leaders pre-eminence in the task of Christianizing their own country. Henceforth the foreigner is to be the co-adjutor of the Chinese worker, his friend and fellow-worker, but, not necessarily, his leader. Presumably he feels that the weight of responsibility does not now rest so heavily on his shoulders and the globe-trotter must make haste or the old interesting and "queer" type will be as extinct as the Dodo before he arrives on the scene.

THE TRADEMARKS LAW

Apr. 15.

THE current number of the "British Chamber of Commerce Journal" deals at length and most incisively with the trademarks controversy. The "Journal" was so near publication when the news of the Diplomatic Body's last Note to the Waichiaopu arrived, that the fact of that reply could only be recorded. But while the Legations have informed the Peking Government that they cannot recommend their respective Governments to accept the law and that, whether firms register under it or not, complaints will have to be dealt with according to extraterritorial rights, the "Journal" shows convincingly that this does not dispose of all the difficulties which the law involves. In the same issue Mr. David Fraser, writing on the Trademark Law from Peking and (in the "Journal's" opinion) "almost certainly not expressing a personal opinion," says:—

The whole question seems to be divided into two parts, that relating to registration and that relating to infringement. In case of the latter, foreign firms always have their remedy, as heretofore, under the Treaties, and no legislation by the Chinese can deprive them of it. In this connexion the "Journal" gives a number of imaginary cases of what would happen if the Law were not recognized and if some firms registered, others did not. These are too long to quote but are very convincingly put and the Journal goes on:—

What has been said above shows clearly that the matter is not thus (*i.e.* as Mr. David Fraser argues) capable of division into two distinct parts: that the questions of registration and infringement will in practice in most cases be inseparably linked, and that recognition of a law which provides for registration in the manner in which the proposed law provides for it must either abandon certain foreign rights or else, in retaining them, make the law unworkable as far as foreigners are concerned. If the Diplomatic Body can point to a road of escape from this alternative, if they can show that the preceding analysis of the problem is incorrect, it is surely not beneath their dignity to indicate where it is at fault. After all, the interests at stake are considerable. They are in fact bigger than any which the Legations have been called upon to defend since 1900. And the mercantile community will be only too thankful to learn that they have all the time been mistaken. But the mere re-iteration of such phrases as recognition without prejudice to treaty rights will not satisfy them. They sound like mere mumbo-jumbo.

There is rather a suggestion in the above that the Diplomatic Body "opes not its ponderous and marble jaws" as freely as it might and that it might be more communicative as to its opinion of the law and what it means to do about it. Mr. Fraser assures us that "what seems clear is that the Diplomatic Body is not going to be rushed into recognizing the Trademark Law", which is very good news indeed. The difficulty is that the Law is, so far as we understand, already a part of the law of the land. In general principle, the Peking foreign official view appears to be that it is not a bad law and that if China were administered like any other country it could be accepted without demur, while it is impossible for any other nationality to dictate to China what laws she should frame. Unfortunately China is not administered like other countries, if she can even be said to be administered at all; and while foreigners may not be entitled to dictate to China how her laws are to be framed, they are entitled to insist that those laws shall contain ample recognition of the rights secured to them by the Treaties—especially as it is plain that a large number of influential Chinese are determined to ignore and frustrate those rights wherever possible. However excellent in theory the new Law may be, in practice it is no improvement on anything done in the past thirty years to protect trademarks in China, in fact very much the reverse. The very last amendment acceptable is that there should be foreign experts in the Bureau and foreign Assessors on the bench when disputes arise. But the Mackay Treaty's provision is really best of all, if we can only get back to that.

THE RATEPAYERS MEETING

Apr. 16.

NOTHING spectacular offers at to-day's meeting but plenty that is of importance. It is greatly to be hoped that all ratepayers will do their best to be present, in order to provide a quorum at the special meeting. This is the more to be urged because the absentee vote is now so large that it almost becomes a question whether there are enough ratepayers corporeally present in Shanghai to form a quorum for a special meeting, at which absentees do not count, every vote having to be recorded personally. To meet the complaint that men cannot get away from their offices for a meeting at 2 p.m., the Council has fixed this year's parliament at 4.30. Even that may be too early for many; but the opening resolutions are largely formal and as most people can leave their business at 5, they will still be in plenty of time for the most important features. The apathy with which too many ratepayers regard the annual meeting is an indirect compliment to the Council: indeed Shanghai is very well administered for all that may be said to the contrary in the heat of occasional moments. If this be the feeling of those who stay away, as we believe it is, they might bethink them that the Councillors, who give up a great deal of time in the public service, would not be averse to having that compliment paid them for once in the material form of well packed seats.

Of the agenda for the special meeting, the proposed licensing of exchange shops appears to have excited no opposition: there is no reason why it should. Some of the Chinese guilds, as noted yesterday, are opposing the increase of wharfage dues, but their arguments read rather half-heartedly and their appearance in the field looks rather as if they were seeking an excuse for adding something about the registration of printers and publishers. The latter associations have really gone to extraordinary lengths in propaganda against registration. They have received no assistance this year from any foreign newspaper, a contrast with what happened in the first year of the registration being mooted on which they might have pondered with possible profit to their cause. For if their former supporters support them no more, what is the obvious inference but that those who think calmly have found that the by-law is reasonable? We can assure the Chinese printing associations that nothing has so much increased the chances of a quorum being assured this afternoon as their wholly unreasonable and obstinate propaganda. For the plain fact about the by-law is that while experience has fully proved its necessity for the maintenance of good order, it is entirely harmless to respectable people.

Turning to the ordinary annual meeting we find a resolution regarding the Telephone Company's agreement which indicates that the Council's suggestions dealt with by us last week have proved acceptable: those suggestions were, briefly, that shareholders should be secured an eight per cent. dividend, that the Council should be represented on the Board of Directors, that surplus earnings should accumulate for the benefit of subscribers and that the automatic telephone should be approved for general use. It seems a very excellent arrangement. It is likely that the rates will go up at first, but that is hardly avoidable on such a change as from manual to automatic. But there is a clear prospect that in years to come they will be revised down again.

As regards the Waterworks, to-day's agenda presents the alternative of much the same kind of agreement as in the Telephone Company's case, or authorization to purchase. We take it that that authorization would not, indeed could not be exercised without a further confirmatory meeting. This point will no doubt be made clear to-day. The position is one of great dubiety. On the one hand, ratepayers undoubtedly endorse the Council's view that it must exercise a control over the operation of public utility companies, which is by no means assured to it where a large number if not the majority of shareholders are absentees. On the other hand, the prospect of heavy borrowing for purchase is certainly not relished. In this connexion attention may be called to Mr. Bruce Lockhart's letter. We cannot follow him altogether in his argument that big municipal loans mean high cost of living; nor do we think his fears as regards the wharfage dues are well founded. The Council seeks authority to increase these to three per cent. of the Customs duty; but it can hardly be expected that it will immediately jump the dues up to that point from the present one tenth of one per cent. On the other hand, the reason why we can never pay for extraordinary undertakings out of ordinary revenue is that so much of the latter must go in paying interest on loans and every effort should be made to avoid increasing the latter. Fortunately we believe that there is every prospect of the Council and the Waterworks coming to an amicable arrangement at last. They will have the best wishes of all that it may be so.

Apr. 17.

OUR Dumb Friends' League—as those members of the House of Commons who were never known in any circumstances to open their lips used affectionately to be known, in the Press Gallery—were overwhelmingly in evidence at the Town Hall yesterday. Apart from the official speakers but one solitary voice was heard crying in the wilderness of the ratepayers' benches. It was raised on a technical point—namely, that the fourth clause of the Waterworks resolution really amounted to an amendment of the other three, thus invalidating the whole as a single resolution.

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This audacious logic-chopper, daring to disturb the sacred somnolence of the assembly with silly conundrums (though we think there were some who believed him to be right), was immediately and successfully snuffed out by the Chairman. And the meeting ended in one hour and five minutes. For the first time in many years we actually heard the names of the gentlemen proposed as Land Commissioner and Hospital Governors. Usually these resolutions are inaudible for the scuffle of people collecting their coats and hats and pushing for the open air. But yesterday it is to be supposed they were under the delusion that a quorum was really present at last. The hall certainly appeared unusually full. In point of fact, there were just half the requisite number of voters. So the Special Meeting "went west" once more, as in another sense presumably most of the ratepayers had gone, and the Chinese publishing associations and Mr. Bruce Lockhart may sleep soundly again. No registration of the press; no extra wharfage dues and added H.C.L.

It was humorously suggested in the hall that the only chance of raising a quorum would be to persuade the Moral Welfare League, when there are no more pretty ladies for them to tilt at, to enlarge their activities and promote a special meeting of ratepayers on the issue that Shanghai immediately "go dry." Then we shall see what we shall see. Meanwhile interest in municipal affairs tends to vary inversely with the size of the Budget. We remember one year when the Budget was actually thrown out and could only be got through by the expedient of a poll, which infuriated all village Hampdens. Nowadays we pass loans for millions with less emotion than was once exhibited over fewer lakhs. And indeed all is very good and the work of administration in the hands of nine devoted volunteers, fortified by as many strong-minded permanent officials, goes ahead most smoothly and efficiently. But for all that, the fact that the requisite 900 ratepayers out of some 2,400 resident cannot be induced to spare an hour or two at the special request of the Council for a matter which, though not outwardly sensational, is of real importance for the cause of good government, is a serious thing. It means that Shanghai, which used to pride itself on its civic sense, is approaching the condition of the average big provincial town at Home, in which municipal affairs are considered beneath the notice of any but butchers and bakers and candlestick makers. Nobody can wonder then that a shocking lot of back-scratching and log-rolling ensues. In Shanghai our strength is and has always been that our Councillors and our permanent officials are men of high integrity and a keen sense of responsibility. Better men, we would venture to say, could not, in the main, be got. But it may not always be so and the community will then have nobody but itself to thank if things go wrong.

Take, for example, the Waterworks resolution. The powers conferred by it upon the Council are literally enormous. Without further reference to the ratepayers, it is now perfectly competent for the Council to go ahead with the scheme of purchase at no matter what present cost or future loss. We know, of course, that it will not do so. Mr. Fessenden gave us some most welcome information as to the conciliatory spirit now visible in the negotiations, of which the first evidence is that all the old bickering correspondence is by mutual consent to be treated as if it had never been and the discussions start *de novo*. All of which, although, as Mr. Fessenden emphasized, the matter is by no means settled, augurs well for the proposed compromise. But the point is that the extensive powers contained in the resolution were granted with no criticism offered but the purely technical one mentioned above. That is a compliment to the Council, which they certainly deserve. But, remembering the prodigious fuss there has been over far less important matters, culverting of the Yangkingpang for instance, we do not think Resolution VII would have gone through so easily in bygone days and it is not a good sign that it should have done so yesterday.

One passage in the Budget speech deserves attention; that in which the chairman of the Council alluded to the difficulty of estimating for prospective road widening and extensions and the extreme probability that more and more would have to be spent on this item. The secret of all civic convenience lies in wide roads. For example, Bubbling Well Road has recently been in the hands of the torturers. As it is for the most part of ample width, the inconvenience to traffic has been small in comparison with the magnitude of the work. But apart from traffic, while there is a very decided limit to the number of pipes and conduits which can be put below the road surface, there is none to what public companies and departments wish to put there. To revert to Bubbling Well Road, the tortuous course of the sewer recently laid there is due to nothing but the pre-existing number of pipes which had to be dodged. In many streets we imagine that nothing more now could be laid. Therefore by all means let the Council estimate as liberally as possible for roads. But here, too, there is a limit, that of expense, which has also kept the City of London streets to their ancient narrowness. And as in London, the time will come when people will have to be content to ride by tram or bus to the periphery of the business quarter and thence to use Shanks's mare.

Impressions of the Ratepayers Meeting.

WITH THE NONAGENARIANS

Apr. 19.

Among the Chinese the three auspicious stars are those of happiness, wealth and longevity; the three kinds of abundance to be prayed for are abundance of good fortune, of years, of male children; the five felicities are longevity, riches, serenity, the love of virtue, and the crowning of life. Of all these blessings longevity seems to be most valued as it holds the foremost place in the list of felicities. In the West some of these values may be differently estimated, but certainly longevity is greatly desired. We have the proverb, "All that a man hath will he give for his life," and the Chinese bandits act on this assumption when they capture foreigners and hold them to ransom. Apart from external circumstances over which we have no power, what must we do or avoid to attain to a good old age? Whatever the answer is, it should correspond with the actual facts of life.

Instead of reaching *a priori* conclusions, starting off with hypotheses and arguing that certain results must necessarily follow, an American scientist, a leading biometrician, recently conceived the happy idea of writing to all persons he could hear of who had reached the age of ninety-five years, in order to ascertain from these experts in the art of living what were the factors which conduced to their longevity. At first he thought there would be little response and that the replies might not be accurate. Two years experience dissipated these fears. Aged people like to talk about themselves, and their neighbours are proud of them and after critical investigation are glad to furnish whatever information they possess. Over three hundred replies were received, the elaborate questionaire sent to each nonagenarian being filled in with painstaking accuracy. It is hoped that before long one thousand histories will be received. In the meantime, in a paper in the official journal of the American Medical Association careful statistics are given of the first fifty-one. The mean age of the women is 96.96 years; that of the men, 97.98. Twenty out of the fifty-one are centenarians, the oldest, a man, being 105. Twenty-six of the twenty-seven men and twenty-two of the twenty-four women had been married one or more times, so marriage has a very favourable influence. By far the most important factor, however, is heredity. Nearly all were members of long-lived families, the years of both direct and collateral kinsfolk being much above the average. Questions were asked as to the use of alcohol and tobacco. Fourteen (54 per cent.) of the men had used alcohol as a beverage during their lives, one excessively so, and twelve (46 per cent.) had been total abstainers. The mean present age of users is 97.2 years, and of the non-users, 97.8 years. As the scientist observes, it is thus evident that it is possible to attain great age either with or without the use of alcohol as a beverage. Of the women, 68 per cent. were total abstainers, with a mean percentage of 98.8 years. Thirty-two per cent. were moderate drinkers with an average present age of 98.7 years. As to tobacco, of the twenty-six men, six smoked, five chewed, and two both smoked and chewed tobacco. The remaining thirteen have never used tobacco in any form. Of twenty-one women, only one has used tobacco and she has smoked all her life. Again, it appears that the use or non-use of tobacco is equally compatible with the attainment of great longevity. We quote one more question. Does the use of alcohol or tobacco blast the prospects of parenthood? The twenty persons who used alcohol as a beverage had 150 children, giving an average of 7.5 children per family. The twenty-five persons who were total abstainers had 169 children, an average of 6.76 children per family. Again the abstainers do not lead. The whole paper is very interesting, and the statements should receive careful and unbiassed consideration.

What is the moral of it all? In the first place, prohibition advocates should not weaken their cause by over-statement. Indugence in alcohol, excessive and habitual, is certainly injurious, but to assert that even to drink in moderation always means financial ruin, disease, insanity and early death, is not in accord with the facts. Secondly, if an inherited predisposition to long life is at least very favourable if not necessary to longevity, as it appears to be, then it is most probable that the majority of persons whose lives are ruined by excessive indulgence in alcohol are of weak, defective stock; consequently, from the point of view of pure eugenics the wisdom of perpetuating such stocks by artificial protection is questionable. Thirdly, when a nation deems it necessary to enforce prohibition laws for the protection of the large proportion of the weak and defective, it should not be regarded with inordinate pride as if it were evidence of a moral triumph of the whole nation; the substitution of state control for self-control is a confession of weakness. Finally, it is well for all to be modest and cautious. Prohibition is a vast experiment and what the moral and physical results will be individually and nationally, cannot as yet be foretold.

THE INTRUDER

[*After the Chinese of Li-Tai-Po.*]

The plashing of my oars hath broken through
The song the water-lilies sang in tune,
On the green waters of the Lake Nan-hou,
To the beloved image of the moon.

I. O.

The Peking public is surprised by the invention of a new kind of coffin. Hitherto coffins were made of wood and the quality of wood depended upon the financial standing of the dead person's relatives. A certain enterprising coffin shop in the West City has invented a cement coffin lined with hard wood. It will last three times as long as the ordinary wooden coffin and costs only a little more. The fortune tellers have, however lodged a strong protest on the ground that the new coffin separates the corpse from the earth which will materially effect the luck of the posterity.

A very pleasant function took place at the Customs House on the 9th instant, when the staff of the appraising department said good-bye to the Chief Appraiser, Mr. E. Watson, who left for home on Sunday for a well earned holiday. Mr. Watson, who has been in the Customs service for 23 years, was attached to the Customs College at Peking for a long period, where he was very popular with all with whom he came in contact. He has been Chief Appraiser in Shanghai, since 1919, has a very thorough knowledge of imports and exports of China and is the author of the widely read volume called "The Principal Articles of China's Commerce—Imports and Exports." A very beautiful copy of this work decoratively finished in silver with his monogram in gold was presented to him by the appraisers, and he was the recipient of many hearty wishes for a very pleasant holiday in the homeland and a speedy and safe return to China. This is Mr. Watson's first home leave during the 23 years of arduous service.

The statement was made the other day that Mr. Henderson, the Home Secretary, who has two sons who are members of the House of Commons, is the only member of the House of Commons to sit in that assembly with two sons as colleagues. Mr. O'Connell, however, had four sons who were members of the House of Commons, of whom three sat simultaneously with him in that House. Mr. O'Connell's Parliamentary career commenced in 1829 and continued till his death in 1847. Mr. O'Connell's eldest son, Maurice, was a member of the House of Commons from 1833 till 1855; his second son, Morgan, from 1832 till 1840; his third son, John, from 1832 till 1852; and were accordingly members of the House of Commons together for some part of their Parliamentary careers, and sat simultaneously with their father. Mr. O'Connell's fourth son, Daniel, was also a member of the House of Commons, to which, however, he was elected in 1853, after the death of his father.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Late Herr Stinnes

An interesting story was current some time ago about the great German magnate who has just died, Herr Hugo Stinnes. When he started his steamship line after the war, the story goes, he proposed to christen his ships after the epithets used by the Allies towards the Germans, and one boat was going to be The Hun, another The Bosch, and so forth. Then, it is related, the German Government intervened and delivered an injunction against his doing anything of the kind. We have not the faintest notion whether there is the slightest truth in the report, but give it for what it is worth. It certainly contains no reflexion on the man, but on the contrary shows a humour and courage of no ordinary kind. As a matter of fact epithets applied in disdain and anger have in subsequent years become the treasured possessions of the people receiving them. The British, for instance, simply love the idea that they are a "nation of shopkeepers," although no doubt they were extremely annoyed when the phrase was first coined, for it had an infinite amount of contempt in it. And Herr Stinnes perhaps thought along these lines, besides probably wishing to show how little it worried him that these names should have been used.

Early Closing

The early closing order—cabarets and other places of entertainment at 1 a.m. with certain dispensations until 3 a.m.—is causing, we learn, a certain amount of feeling between proprietors of these establishments in the French Concession and those in the Foreign Settlement. To put the matter bluntly the cabaret keepers of the Concession say that the Settlement authorities are winking at evasions of the regulation, and the Settlement proprietors say exactly the same thing about the Concession. In the circumstances one can only sympathize with authorities concerned who after all are doing their best to enforce a rule which was brought into being with a very good intention, to the effect that the youth of the port should get home at any rate in moderately good time. We do not know how general the complaints are on the part of the proprietors, but we know that they have been made and certain of those concerned in the measure are wondering what to do about it. That any of the authorities have winked at evasions we decline to believe, but there are so many of these places of entertainment that it is quite possible that some have succeeded in prolonging their hours of revenue-making. It must be borne in mind, in thinking of these allegations, that nothing would please a section of the establishments concerned better than a rescinding of the present regulation, and if they could prove it unworkable that might be brought about. But before any such course is taken there must be something more than the mere suggestions that have so far been put forward.

A Chinese Battle

Mr. Thomas Bowen Partington has recently been giving a series of lectures on China at Wolverhampton in which appeared the following delightful account of a Chinese battle.

> There was said the lecturer, plenty of fighting in China; in fact, they were always fighting among themselves, but it was of the comic opera variety, and the winning army was the one which made the most noise. After a whole day's noisy firing the casualties would be absolutely nil.
>
> The lecturer gave an amusing account of how, when traversing a certain stretch of country, he came upon a couple of Chinese rival armies indulging in one of their periodical engagements.
>
> "One would be perfectly safe so long as a Chinese soldier was shooting at oneself," he said, "but there was a certain amount of danger when firing at someone else."
>
> Knowing the polite and courteous nature of the Chinese, he sent his servant to the Commander of the nearer force to tell him that an important English gentleman wished to traverse the area of their battlefield, and would they please suspend operations for a short while. This request was immediately granted and both armies stopped all action until he had passed safely through.
>
> The lecturer said that trade unionism had become a fine art with the Chinese. Their unions were called guilds, however, and there was even a Beggars' Guild and a Thieves' Guild.
>
> Mr. Partington said that he subscribed regularly to both these guilds and consequently was never bothered by the presence of beggars on his verandah—one did not have to see them to know they were there, especially in the summer—and had never had anything stolen.

One is not quite certain that the same experience would hold good in all parts of China. What about the shipping in the upper Yangtze? However, perhaps if it practised Mr. Partington's methods the results might be equally favourable. One understands his being able to reassure us as to the Singapore base being in no sense necessary as a defence against the Chinese. The amazing thing to us out here is that there should, apparently, be people who thought it was.

The Paper Roads

The National Road Construction Association of China was not long in replying to our criticism of its organization and methods, but it did not make exactly the kind of reply that had been expected. It explained that its chief aim is not to build roads, but to talk about them, and the obvious reply to that is that it is doing some very expensive talking. According to its own statement it had funds of $110,000 and as it is now making a most touching appeal for more, it is to be assumed that the treasury is empty. The secretary's letter shows, just as did the report which provoked our comment, that the Association's work amounts to nothing more than extending its membership and issuing a flood of pamphlets. Of proof that the Association can claim the honour for any actual road-building there is absolutely none. The appeal now is for funds to build palatial headquarters "with board room, exhibition room, deposit room, parlour, dining room, etc." What is the need? The British Chamber of Commerce can get along with three very moderate rooms and the General Chamber of Commerce with one very dingy one, so why this splendour for a mere talking shop? The real surprise, however, was that the N.R.C.A.C. did not attempt to deny that it is the Good Roads Movement under another name, or else to announce that it had reformed its ways. The Good Roads Movement, meeting at the Y.M.C.A. (an organization financed by foreigners to the extent of many million dollars) proposed to build a road round the Settlements to prevent the foreigners building roads which the Chinese would not build themselves. Has the N.R.C.A.C. done a single thing to remove the opposition which prevents the building of the Road to the Hills, or will it build that road itself If not, why appeal to foreigners for funds for cosy headquarters for pamphlet writers?

The "Morning Post"

For many months past rumours have been current that Lady Bathurst was on the point of relinquishing her proprietorship of the "Morning Post," and although these have been generally denied they are now confirmed. A group of Conservatives headed by the Duke of Northumberland is to take the paper over. Lady Bathurst having announced that she has sold it because of the heavy taxation it has to bear. Thus ends the family connexion and control which has existed ever since the paper was founded. It was a Scotsman named Borthwick who founded the "Morning Post," the lure of London having carried him to the metropolis as so many of his countrymen, and not only did he play an important part in political journalism but his successors as well, their names recurring constantly in the biographies of statesmen. The last male in direct descent from the founder was created Baron Glenesk, and, the male line becoming extinct, the proprietorship descended to his daughter, now Lady Bathurst. One always regrets that a great paper such as the "Morning Post" should leave private hands and become the property of a public limited liability company, for it is so often too much to be feared that the tradition it has carried with it for years may at length disappear. The caprices of numerous shareholders or their clamour for greater dividends may readily cause a change in policy or, what might easily prove worse, in style, and so a great institution might be no more, at least its generation of readers would fail to recognize it. In the present instance these fears will not be so pronounced as would be the case had the paper fallen into other hands. The Duke of Northumberland, who is at the head of the Conservative group making the purchase has for long been a constant contributor to the columns of the "Morning Post," and it is safe to say that while he is at the head of affairs it will maintain its pure conservatism and rare literary flavour.

Foreign Protests

The British Consul-General in Canton has just protested against the latest act of the Kuangtung Government in imposing a tax on alcohol and another on soda water. To-day the Chinese Press tells us that H. M. Minister in Peking has delivered a further protest against the cigarette tax in Chêkiang and Kiangsu and proposes to hold the Central Government responsible for any damage or loss which British firms may suffer in consequence. A third communication, somewhat by way of protest, is also mentioned in the Chinese Press, this being on the part of the Netherlands Minister, who is said to have called the attention of Peking to the grave depreciation of the copper coinage and asked that an order be issued to stop the minting of further coins. This latter case is different from the other two only in degree, for as a matter of fact the minting of underweight coins has imposed for several years past practically a surtax on an important foreign company here—the Tramways. How many other foreign firms it has also affected it is difficult to say. What the man in the street is incuined to ask to-day is how much tangible good these protests can do, for as the arm of Peking's authority is not long enough to reach the provinces there is only a slender hope that any effect will be exercised. Some day, however, things are bound to be different, and it may be trusted that when these protests are pointed to as being on record the injustices may be remedied.

Matters of Pronunciation

A couple of correspondents of the "Glasgow Herald" have latterly been dealing with the subject of the different pronunciations adopted by Englishmen and Scotsmen, and when it is considered what these amount to it presents a fascinating study. One of the first examples given are "tied" and "tide," which the writers say the English pronounce alike while the Scots very strongly differentiate between them, the former word being given a long intonation and the latter a short, sharp one. We are next told that what an Englishman would describe as a "morning caller," a Scotsman would pronounce a "morning collar," which is rather bad and suggestive of that very pernicious matutinal beverage known as a "horse's neck." Then comes the subject of water, which one of the writers says is pronounced in Scotland "wotter." This is rather a surprising statement, as we were always under the impression that the majority of Burns's countrymen spoke it as "wa'er," this being accomplished by choking the "t" away up at the top of the back of the throat. Scotland, however, seems to have got England badly over one word, and that is "bow-wow," which the authority in the "Herald" says is how all decent dogs talk and is the way Scotsmen pronounce it. On the other hand Englishmen make this particular word rhyme with the "miaow" of a cat, and that must surely be wrong.

A Restive Electorate

A telegram on Tuesday mentioned that the electorate of Kiaochou were distinctly restive. For a long time no member of Parliament has represented Kiaochou, nor have any elections been held, and worst of all it is not quite certain how elections should be held there. So Kiaochou shows distinct annoyance, but we do not know that the district is any worse off than any other constituency in China, for it must be confessed that Chinese M.P.'s as a whole have not made a conspicuous success of their job. Their history has been one largely composed of journeyings between Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai and Canton according to the prospects of emolument in the different centres, and their legislative achievements have not benefited the country in the very least. Kiaochou might also remember that in other constituencies elections have been absolutely lacking for years past, and it is doubtful whether some of the present members were ever elected at all. In fact one authority goes the length of saying that when a member has vacated his seat for whatever cause it might be, somebody else has quietly slipped into it without even the semblance of obtaining popular approval. In the circumstances Kiaochou need hardly excite itself over its lack of an M.P., for at the worst it means one less individual to batten on the country's revenue.

A Scottish Snowstorm

Scottish papers just to hand denote that that country has been visited by a snowstorm of a character which it is difficult for those who live in milder climes to realize can take place so close to England. It is in certain respects the same surprising sort of thing which occurred there last year when rivers burst their bounds and swept whole tracts of railways away. This latter storm occurred after a perfectly sunny and more or less warm week-end at the beginning of March, but then a terrible blizzard followed, during which four people met their deaths. The most remarkable of these tragedies occurred in Banffshire where a woman was suddenly caught by a terrific gust of wind in a gully. It took away her breath; she fell to the ground unconscious; and died almost immediately from suffocation. The wind must have been of the utmost violence, for it is reported that motor-cars were blown across roads, while it was inevitable that in these circumstances pedestrians should have been knocked down. At the same time the snow seems to have been of an appalling heaviness, for before many hours had passed snow wreaths had gathered in the Highlands, and it was in these dreadful accumulations that the other fatalities occurred. Near Aberdeen a man drove a motor lorry into one of them, and exhausted by his efforts to get it out lay down and perished. The snow ploughs were quickly at work, but even so trains were arriving at their destinations a day late. The Hebrides were cut off entirely, and the distress prevalent there which has already brought the inhabitants to the verge of starvation was greatly accentuated. It has been described as probably the worst storm since the Tay Bridge was blown down, and bearing in mind that catastrophe and such subsequent occurrences as the Elliot railway disaster, it must be considered a fortunate circumstance that no more serious consequences occurred.

Homing Pigeons

We publish certain facts to-day about the destruction of homing pigeons, apparently by "sportsmen," which must make the majority of the fraternity blush for the sins of the minority. It ought to be a criminal offence to kill one of these birds, and this for two outstanding reasons. Nobody who goes shooting should be ignorant of the difference of appearance between one of these, or any other tame pigeon, and the well-known wild variety, and a man who would shoot a tame creature is a vile animal. The second principal reason is the amazing utility of the birds. How many lives did they not save during the war? There is that thrilling story of the naval airman who was forced to descend with his seaplane in the North Sea, and liberated his homer with a message giving his position and the probabilities of how long his machine would float. The bird was wounded on the way home, but—he must have been a gallant creature—got in in time with his message, utterly exhausted through loss of blood. Destroyers went out, and the airman was saved. And it is a great thing to think that the pigeon who did that job of work was doctored and attended to by the finest possible skill, recovered and is believed to be still alive. He deserved a decoration. It is the same class of creature that is in such serious danger to-day in the vicinity of Shanghai. Some of them have done flights from Nanking to here, and if for the time being they constitute merely the sport of a few fanciers, let us never forget what they may do for us.

Bolshevik Diplomacy

The Bolsheviks are really the most extraordinary people. Not perhaps an original observation but that they appear never to have exhausted their faculty for surprising us. Their proneness to make a mess of things diplomatically has been vividly illustrated in this country. Both Joffe and Karakhan at the time of their arrival were represented as being something quite out of the way. They certainly were, though not in the sense implied by their press agents. Joffe bungled everything both in Peking and Tokio; Karakhan's failure is too fresh in every memory to need repetition. But neither of these gentlemen's exploits can compare with that of Trotsky in the speech at Tiflis reported yesterday. Trotsky, be it remembered, is Commissary for War and President of the Revolutionary Council, altogether "the big noise" in Bolshevism. After the usual tirade against France and Poland, he addressed himself to Great Britain as follows:—

> "Mr. MacDonald's Cabinet has absolutely no principles, nevertheless the success of the Anglo-Russian conference would strengthen its position."

At the moment this choicely insulting remark was made the Soviet mission must have been landing in England, to negotiate an agreement with the British Government of which from its own point of view the most important part is to obtain business credits and if possible a loan. In actual fact it does not really much matter what Trotsky says, because credits and loans are not going to be supplied until the Bolsheviks give back the British property that they stole, pay for what they cannot restore and give convincing proof that henceforward they will duly regard the sanctity of contracts. But that Trotsky should choose the precise moment to insult Mr. Ramsay MacDonald when he is trying to get something out of him is marvellous.

PUBLIC organizations in Manchuria have wired to the Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urging them to demand of Moscow the withdrawal of M. L. Karakhan and the despatch of another envoy to Peking in his place, reports a Peking telegram to the Dah Tong News Bureau. The Cabinet and the Ministry are now considering the matter.

THE obsolete four-funnel cruiser Susie which was sold to a London firm of steel merchants to be broken up, sailed from Rosyth for Belfast with eight men aboard recently. She ran into a gale, broke adrift from her attendant tugs and disappeared and was still wandering in the North Sea on March 12. The vessel was seen over a week previous off Franc Islands and then disappeared. She was seen a few days later 60 miles off Peterhead. Tugs were frequently sent to look for her but unsuccessfully owing to storms and fogs. It is believed that the men aboard have plenty of food.

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NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

TSINGTAO'S BUSINESS GOVERNMENT

Mr. Kao En-hung in Conference with Commercial Groups: Big Harbour Improvements Projected: Financing the Southern Squadron?

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Apr. 9.

Mr. Kao En-hung, the new Tupan, convened a meeting on Friday (the 7th instant.) and another this afternoon at which various business groups attended, for the purpose of discussing ways and means to improve local harbour facilities.

Mr. Kao said that inasmuch as the coolie monoply hitherto held by the Kiao-Tsi Transportation Co., has now been dissolved, the Administration welcomed any suggestions which local business men might wish to make.

None were advanced on Friday, however. The various groups retired for the purpose of discussing the whole issue amongst themselves. This afternoon, the Tupan received a group of foreign merchants and heard their views. The suggestions of the Japanese will be received later. One foreign merchant suggested the following:— (1) Allotment of special wharves for ocean steamers; (2) Special facilities for coal loading; (3) Facilities for transfer of cargoes from railroad cars to steamers and *vice versâ*; (4) Reduction of delay in loading and unloading to a minimum.

The opinion in some quarters appears to be that a foreign expert should be attached to the Harbour Department who could be engaged in the process of reorganizing the functions of the Department to the entire satisfaction of the business community. Two further suggestions were that special bonded receipts should be issued by the Department that will be accepted by local banks as negotiable instruments, and that some efficient system of protection against fire should be inaugurated.

Local merchants have been very favourably impressed with the business-like attitude of the new Administration. Improvements in various directions are foreseen.

ADMIRAL WEN'S SQUADRON.

But there is just one point in which the business community is greatly interested and which has not yet been cleared up: the question of the maintenance of Admiral Wen's squadron at the expense of public utilities. It is feared that the idea of the new *régime* is to reduce necessary expenditure to a minimum and increase in various ways the sources of revenue for the purpose of using a portion of the surplus for the upkeep of the men-o'-war from the South. I have endeavoured to obtain a statement from Mr. Kao on this matter, but have so far only elicited the promise that such a statement will be made in a few days. Mr. Kao, the Governor's Chief Secretary and Director for General Affairs, pointed out that a good deal of the rumours circulated in connexion with the alleged intention of the new administration to milk the earnings of public utilities for the support of Admiral Wen's squadron were without foundation, for example, the one that the administration was endeavouring to mortgage the telephone system so as to raise money for this purpose.

It is now learnt that Mr. Kao is pressing the Railway Administration for either the return of the Headquarters Building and ground or payment therefor. The Japanese cashier's idea is that inasmuch as Admiral Wen had already secured $150,000 out of the treasury of the Railway, the whole matter can now be called square. It is opined by outsiders that Mr. Kao will value the property at a figure considerably higher than the foregoing sum.

LAND SOLD TO JAPANESE.

The greatest problem the new Administration has to face is undoubtedly the property question. The old Administration sold countless lots of land and it is an open secret that plots in central districts have been sold to Japanese at ridiculous figures in the hurry to raise money with which to patch things up. The old administration's property cow has been milked fairly dry by Chinese and Japanese ever watchful of opportunities to get something for almost nothing, although it must be admitted that the Japanese consular authorities have maintained a very fair attitude, refusing to press the claims of their nationals when such claims are not substantiated by lawful documents. Broadminded Japanese admit that fully 70 per cent. of land held by their countrymen cannot be substantiated.

CHINA AND JAPAN

Conference on Manchurian Questions in Peking

Peking, Apr. 9.

The Japanese Consuls in China meet once a year to exchange views on various questions such as the education of Japanese children in China, the imposition of illegal taxes, protection of Japanese lives and property in China, and general trade matters. Hitherto meetings have taken place at Mukden, where Japanese Consuls in Manchuria met, at Tientsin of Consuls throughout North China, at Hankow of Consuls in Central China and at Taihoku, Formosa, of Consuls of South China. This year an alteration of this procedure has occurred. The meeting in Mukden concluded on the 7th instant and the Consuls of North China will meet at Peking for a week's session beginning tomorrow. The Manchurian Consuls have come on to Peking and will attend the conference here. The place of meeting was changed from Tientsin to Peking so that the Legation could receive reports from the Consuls of North China and Manchuria. Eighteen Consuls of North China and five of Manchuria will attend the Peking Conference. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPAN AND THE SOVIET

Recognition Demand a Barrier to Trade Agreement

Peking, Apr. 9.

The Japanese Minister had another meeting with Mr. Karakhan yesterday. The discussions between the Japanese and Russian representatives have not yet been concerned with the question of Japanese recognition of the Soviet Government.

The Japanese view is that recent incidents that have arisen between Japan and Russia should be settled before recognition should be discussed, whereas the Russians want to discuss recognition first. With this confliction of views no real progress have yet been made.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The Emperor of Japan, through the Japanese Ambassador in London, has sent to Lady Moore a pair of large silver vases, with the Imperial crest inlaid in gold, as a token of his appreciation of the valuable services rendered by her late husband, Sir Edward Cecil Moore, while Lord Mayor of London last year, in alleviating the distress caused by the earthquake in Japan by raising a Mansion House Fund which realized over £250,000.

SOOCHOW'S CITY WALL

Another Picturesque Relic of the Old China in Absolute Disrepair

From Our Own Correspondent.

Soochow, April 8.

There is an old local saying, "Six gates and six dialects," because after the Taiping Rebellion thousands moved into Soochow from other parts of China, thus creating many dialects, so that even to-day the question is often asked, "What is the pure Soochow dialect." This local saying must now go into the "junk file," for two new gates are being opened through the city wall.

One is being opened in the west wall south of the Chang Men, the busiest city gate. This will connect with a new bridge, that was built two years ago, across the outside moat, and also the main canal outside the city. This new gate will leave the Chang Men free for pedestrians, for all ricshas will now take the route through this new gate.

The more important new gate is being opened in the north wall just opposite to the railway station. In the years to come this promises to be the busiest gate of the city, for practically all the traffic from inside the city walls, to the railway station, will pass through this gate. This north gate has been under discussion for 18 years, ever since the Shanghai-Nanking Railway was opened as far as Soochow, in the summer of 1906; but business interests around the Chang Men have long fought this plan, fearing that turning this volume of traffic from the Chang Men would mean a great financial loss. However, for the greater convenience of the entire city, the business men inside and outside the Chang Men have been forced now to yield to the opening of this new gate. The work on both of these new city gates will probably be completed in the early summer.

The bridge over the small inside moat, at this new north gate, is also now being built, but funds are still wanted for the very long bridge across the outside moat, connecting this new gate with the station: so that for the present a ferry will be used. When this new bridge is built, it will be wide enough to carry carriages: and there is a plan to open a carriage road inside the city to the Big Pagoda.

Another carriage road is planned straight south through the western part of the city, by filling in a little used canal. Fifteen years ago this canal was dredged, but since the city canals are chiefly used as a dumping place for all refuse, this canal was soon again blocked at many points, and in the present low state of the water, its fragrance ascends to high heaven, and its waters in colour and consistency remind one of printer's ink. Filling in this canal for a "horse road" will be a municipal gain rather than a loss.

WITHSTOOD SIEGE BY GEN. GORDON.

There are really a dozen places in Soochow's city wall where one may ascend or descend on the outside with the greatest ease, for the noble old wall is gradually falling down for lack of repair. In the days of the old Empire the wall was kept in a state of good repair, but since the Republic was established, public funds are required for official private gambling debts, and other such necessities, so that there are not enough funds for public works. It seems sad to see this picturesque old bulwark falling into ruin, but from a modern viewpoint it has past its days of usefulness, even though 60 years ago it could withstand the siege of "Chinese" Gordon and Li Hung-chang.

Tradition has it that some of the old foundations are the original foundations, and some semi-mythological histories make the date of these foundations to correspond with the founding of Rome. These same histories state that the city originally had 12 gates instead of six, and that the Chang Men suburb ran 15 miles to the northwest; half way to Wusih. And the Bur Men suburb stretched 12 miles to the south, linking up with the city of Wukiang. However, this may be, from the old ruins, Soochow must have been indeed a vast city in the centuries long past, and even modern New York and London would not seem very great in comparison.

HONGKONG SENSATION

Portuguese Captain's Arrest on Attempted Murder Charge: Said to Have Been Accidental

Hongkong, Apr. 13.

Capt. Silvares, a visiting Portuguese army officer from Macao, has been arrested by the police on a charge of attempted murder.

Capt. Silvares and his wife and Lt. Costa Sequeira returned from Repulse Bay Hotel at 1.30 this morning, and, while alighting from the motor-car, outside the Astor House Hotel, it is alleged that Capt Silvares drew his pistol and shot his wife and Lt. Sequoira. The latter collapsed, wounded in the arm and leg. He is expected to recover. The lady was wounded in the stomach. Both were taken to hospital.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong, Apr. 13.

Lieut. Costa Sequeira and Mrs. Silvares, who were wounded in the shooting affair yesterday, declared that the shooting was accidental. After a conference between the Portuguese Consul-General and the Criminal Investigation Department, Captain Silvares, who was proceeding to Portugal, was allowed to go.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AMERICAN OUTLAY IN CHINA

Tsingtao Critics of the Return on Educational Expenditure

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, April 6.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dadisman, the Principal of the Tsingtao American Academy, gave a dinner on Friday night to the advisors and teachers of the Academy and their wives and husbands as well as guests, the object being to ascertain in what way the Academy could benefit from the movement now in progress amongst Americans in the Far East for the support of American schools out here.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Mrs. Dadisman outlined the purpose of the gathering. After detailing the efforts of Tientsin Americans to arouse interest in American schools in China, Mrs. Dadisman declared that in order to attend a conference of teachers to be shortly convened in the north, she proposed leaving for Peking in a few days, and will convey to Americans in Tientsin any expression of opinion that those present may make.

There was then some discussion, opinion being divided as to whether the American Chambers of Commerce in China should support the American schools in this country, or whether the United States Government should do so. Mr. Sears thought it should be up to the Government to aid the schools inasmuch as Americans in the Orient were paying their taxes to the Government without being able to obtain the same privileges which Americans at home had. Mrs. Dadisman declared that to some extent Americans in China did not get a good return for their money. Mr. Adams thought a special law would have to be passed before Government aid could be secured. At the present time, each State supported its own schools, so that it would mean waiting for some considerable period before the desired object could be achieved. Mr. Jernigan's idea was that the American Chambers of Commerce in China should support the American schools in this country. The taxes paid to the Government were in lieu of the protection it gave to American citizens in the Orient.

Nothing definite was arrived at, but undoubtedly the whole point will be discussed again, after further details of the movement in Tientsin and Shanghai had become available.

Those present were:—Mrs. Elizabeth Dadisman, Mrs. M. Bergen, Miss G. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. T. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. P. Jernigan, Mr. and Mrs. D. Y. Lin, Mr. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. Gatrell, Mr. and Mrs. Telberg, Mr. James Giauque, Mr. Wong and your correspondent.

SIGNS OF WAR IN KUANGTUNG

Troop Movements on West and East Rivers: Crime in Canton and Short Money

From Our Own Correspondent.

Canton, April 7.

The situation in and around Canton shows signs of developing. The movements of troops to the East River are continuing, and it is expected that shortly the situation there will be in hand. The troops under Chen Chiung-ming appear to be withdrawing from Poklo and Waichow to Swatow and Amoy, and the advance of the Sun troops to Poklo is announced.

The reason for this withdrawal of the Chen troops is not very clear, but it is probable that the advance of Tsang Chi-p'ing from the Fukien border may have some connection with it. On the other hand it is believed by supporters of Chen Chiung-ming that this withdrawal is being conducted in order to concentrate his forces and shorten the line of operations preparatory to an advance.

On the West River during the last week there was also a certain amount of activity, culminating in the disarmament of Gen Chau Chi-ching by the troops under Liu Yu-shan at Dosing. At the same time there were reports to the effect that Wuchow was again in danger of being retaken by Lu Yung-t'ing, but up to the time of writing nothing further has been received, and it is claimed in Canton that the situation is well in hand.

DISORDER IN THE CITY.

In the City conditions continue to be somewhat disturbed, and murders and robberies are daily occurrences. The murders in nearly all cases are committed by soldiers quarrelling over gambling, and are carried out in the most cold-blooded way, the corpses being left lying in the streets. At the same time the number of troops in the City is decreasing and it is to be hoped that that it will not be long before as many as possible have been removed from its precients.

The question of money still remains an urgent one and it is reported that Cheng Hung-nin, the Commissioner of Finance has handed in his resignation. As has already been reported the Opium Commission are finding the greatest difficulty in carrying on in the face of the opposition from the troops, and now the whole question of opium is in the hands of a Hunanese General, Lo Tik-p'ing.

FORCED COLLECTIONS.

The fourth month's house rent is now being collected by the Police for the Military expenses, and a certain amount of difficulty is being experienced in its collection. This is the fourth time during the last year that a month's rent has been collected by the Government.

General Li Fuk-lam continues his operations against the pirates in the Delta and during last week several successful raids were made resulting in the shooting of five well-known pirates, and the apprehension of many others.

SHAMEEN NEWS.

The fine new building which has been in course of erection for the accomodation of H.B.M.'s Consular offices and Vice-Consuls quarters is now practically finished and the offices are now being transferred to the new building.

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UNJUST TAXATION IN CANTON

Native Bankers' Successful Protest: Two Offending Measures Repealed

Canton, Apr. 4.

The suspension of business by the native bankers of Canton on March 31 has led to the final repeal by the Administration of the two offending new taxes—the requirement for bankers to use stamped paper for their business transactions in addition to the ordinary revenue stamps on negotiable papers, and the levy of 1½ per cent. extra duty on the export of subsidiary coins from Canton. The latter tax had been made more intolerable by the ruling of Dr. Sun Yat-sen that export included carrying coins from the City of Canton to the country districts of the same province. This would practically have cut off business transactions between the city and the country, as farmers bring their produce into the city in the morning and return home with the money for what they have sold, thereby "exporting" coinage. Other taxes repealed during the past few days include the common welfare tax, collected from the boat population in Kuangtung. The boat people in Canton and the district are now paying more taxes than they can possibly afford. In Canton, for example, they have to pay the police tax, the fee for the annual registration and numbering of their craft and similar taxes, which amount to a considerable sum.

H. M. CONSUL-GENERAL'S PROTEST.

The main outstanding taxation question is now the alcohol tax, to which the British Consular authorities in Canton have taken exception on the ground that it is simply a further duty on the goods, as alcohol and similar articles are mostly imported from abroad and thus have already paid duty.

The British Consul-General has also protested against the recently created tax on soda-water. The Watson Factory, the largest concern in Canton manufacturing aerated waters, is very seriously affected. The Canton Government has imposed a tax of one dollar for every 120 bottles sold by the wholesale merchants to the retail shops, which will be authorized to collect one cent extra for every bottle sold to customers.

POLICE COLLECTING RENT.

All tenants have been ordered by the police to pay their April rent to the police instead of to the landlords of their houses or shops. Persons who own their own homes or shops and are doing business in their property are required to pay 6 to 10 per cent. of the value of their property. This is the fourth time the people of Canton have had to pay this levy. The proceeds will go towards Dr. Sun's military budget. The military commanders of every district in Kuangtung are doing the same thing in their own districts. Last week the rival commanders in the West River districts had a dispute over the division of territory for the collection of taxes, which resulted in the practical annihilation of a regiment under Gen. Chen Tien-ti, of the Kuangsi army.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Mr. Yang Shu-kan, the Civil Governor of Canton, has written to the most prominent Cantonese still remaining in the city to ask them to assist the Government in the raising of funds for the Northern Expedition, which Dr. Sun intends to undertake against Peking. He adds that the followers of Gen. Chen Chiung-ming, who are "unfriendly" to Dr. Sun, on the eastern front will shortly be routed. There has been fighting on the eastern front for months past, but so far the Northern Expedition has failed to make any advance.

PROTECTION OF FOREIGN SHIPPING.

The new commander of the Kuangtung Coast Defence force has made his headquarters at Whampoa instead of Kongmoon, which has been the headquarters of the gunboat flotilla for nearly a year. The river flotilla is the only naval force left to Dr. Sun since the recent desertion of Admiral Wen Shu-teh and his squadron to the North. In Canton Harbour one now sees very few gunboats flying the Chinese colours. The larger boats at Canton are all foreign. At present the U. S. S. Helena, the U. S. destroyer No. 217, H.M.S. Foxglove, the French gunboat Craonne and a Japanese destroyer are stationed at Canton. The British river gunboats, including the Cicala, Moorhen, Tarantula, Moth and Robin, are patrolling the West River to protect British shipping.

Some British shipping companies are arranging for their own protection in Kuangtung waters, in addition to the aid they may expect from the Hongkong Government. The Hongkong and South China Launch Company, which has many vessels to protect, has chartered an armed boat, the Ilha de Dom Joard, with Indian watchmen on board under European officers, to follow up their vessels.

CO-OPERATION AGAINST PIRATES.

Piracy is so common these days in Canton waters that nothing but self-protection will be effective. The river steamers plying between Hongkong and inland towns have adopted a co-operative system, by which they will travel together and render assistance when one is in danger. Travelling on the tow-boats on the rivers of the Delta is exceedingly dangerous because of the number of military stations and pirate strongholds the craft have to pass. In order to make their way through, the boats sometimes have to pay as many as 53 tributes, likins and other contributions to the bandits and troops as well as the regular tax-collectors.

M. Merlin, the Governor-General of Indo-China, will visit Canton about April 23 in the interest of trade between the two countries. He will be accompanied by the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce of Saigon and Hanoi and other prominent personages of the two cities. The Chinese merchants in Canton, through the General Chamber of Commerce, have appointed a committee to prepare for the reception of the distinguished visitors.

JUDGE NOT A POLITICIAN.

Dr. Chao S. Bok, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South China, has been relieved of office by mandate of Dr. Sun because of his unwillingness to become a member of the Kuomintang while in office. Dr. Bok believes that a judge in office should take no active part in party politics.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NO ROOM IN JAVA FOR JAPANESE

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, April 5.

That there is no room in the Dutch East Indies for Japanese immigrants because the chief island, Java, is already overpopulated and the Dutch colonial government is, in consequence, devising ways and means of sending the superfluous population to Borneo and Sumatra, was a hint thrown out by General J. C. Pabst, Netherlands Minister to Tokio, when Japanese press men interviewed him on the subject.

"Java is densely populated," he said, "almost as bad as Holland, my own country. As a result of the rapid increase in the population, the area of uncultivated land in the Dutch East Indies is growing smaller and smaller every day, and even the bush lands of Sumatra and Borneo have been transformed into rice fields at amazing speed. There is no possibility of the Dutch East Indies, therefore, receiving immigrants from other countries."

Referring to the dropping of the bill for the expansion of the Dutch Far Eastern navy by the Dutch parliament recently, General Pabst said: "Luckily or unluckily, the bill was beaten by 50 to 49 in the Lower House, 100 members absenting themselves because the opposition to the bill became very strong owing to the present financial difficulties of the Netherlands. The Japanese earthquake helped to strengthen the hands of the elements opposed to an augmentation of the Dutch fleet in the East."

KIAOCHOU-TSINANFU RAILWAY

Managing Director Transferred to Lunghai Railway: an Interchange of Posts

Tsingtao, Apr. 9.

Mr. Liu Kun, the Managing Director of the Kiaochou-Tsinan Railway, has been transferred to the Lunghai Railway as Manager. The Manager of the Lunghai Railway, Mr. Shao Hung-chun, is succeeding Mr. Liu Kun and is expected to arrive here tomorrow. Mr. Liu Kun will leave for Peking for instructions prior to taking up his new post.

The order from Peking was not unexpected as Mr. Liu's administration has been the object of several attacks lately. He was responsible for the transference of $150,000 from the coffers of the railway to Admiral Wen Shu-teh's treasury for the upkeep of the naval detachment in the bay, it is stated at the instigation of Marshal Wu Pei-fu. It is also said that he was endeavouring to find a way to transfer additional sums to the squadron, but had been baulked by the Chinese chief accountant and the Japanese accountant. Fault was also found with the line of his conduct of the case of Mr. S. S. Keh, the district engineer at Changtien, who was murdered by bandits.

The new Managing Director was formerly President of Chao Tung University and was once Chinese Consul at Vladivostok. He is a close personal friend of both Marshal Wu Pei-fu and Governor Kao En-hung and formerly was a member of the staff of the latter when Mr. Kao was Minister of Communications.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Commission of Inquiry into Its Affairs: Foreign Experts Among Members

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, April 10.

Co-inciding with the arrival of the new territorial governor, the Railway Commission especially appointed to investigate and report upon the conditions of and along the Kiaochou-Tsinan Railway has arrived. The Commission is divided into several sections, Mr. Kin, the Director-General of the Kirin-Changchun Railway being Chairman, Mr. P. D. Griffith, Assistant-Manager of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, in charge of engineering matters, Mr. Chuan, formerly with the Peking-Hankow Railway, in charge of Traffic matters, Mr. G. E. Baker, advisor to the Ministry of Communications, in charge of Financial affairs, and Mr. Sheng Chi, Technical Expert to the Ministry of Communications, in charge of Technical matters, such as workshop operation etc. Mr. Chuan replaces Mr. Chow, of the Tientsin-Pukow Line, who is unable to attend owing to a death in the family.

The Commission is fully empowered to institute an investigation into the economic and financial resources of the Kiao-Tsi Railway and to ascertain how to introduce reforms. Furthermore, measures will be devised for the effective protection of the interests of both China and Japan until the former has fulfilled her obligations in accordance with the provisions of the Washington Treaty. Mr. Koo, the Chief Chinese Accountant of the Railway, has been persuaded by the Ministry of Communications to remain at his post. It is considered that there can be no question that the Kiao-Tsi Railway if efficiently managed, and freed from all attempts to have its earnings support the fighting units of one Tuchun or another, could itself meet the obligations with Japan at the expiration of the 15-year period prescribed in the Sino-Japanese agreement concerning its amortization.

The Railway Administration is now under the Managing-directorship of Mr. Shao Hun-chung who has replaced Mr. Liu Kun, since dismissed. The dismissal of the former Managing-Director came in an order from the Ministry of Communications and caused not a little surprise in view of the fact that Mr. Shao is a Wu Pei-fu man. This is considered as complicating matters for the Commission is supposed to be here for the purpose of submitting a report to show why the Railway would not bear any straining of its resources for the support of Admiral Wen's squadron taken over by Marshal Wu Pei-fu. Had Mr. Liu Kun been replaced by a non-Wu Pei-fu man, the whole position would have become clear, but in appointing Mr. Shao as Managing-Director of the Railway, the Ministry of Communications has given a puzzle to the people of this territory.

PIRACY IN HONGKONG WATERS

Str. Tailee Assailed: Sunning to Rescue: 3 Pirates Killed and One Passenger

Hongkong, Apr. 12.

While the steamer Tailee was voyaging from Kongmoon to Hongkong yesterday evening, a number of pirates disguised as passengers rushed to the engine-room. Simultaneously confederates on the river bank opened fire on the steamer with rifles. The Tailee blew its whistle and fired a rocket and a Verey light.

The steamer Sunning, answering the calls, proceeded to the assistance of the Tailee. A European police sergeant and four special and six Indian guards returned the fire of the pirates. Several passengers were wounded.

The pirates jumped overboard and swam to the shore, three of them being killed. A Chinese woman passenger on board the Sunning was killed by a stray bullet.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong-Kongmoon Steamer Service Suspended by Ships' Officers

Hongkong, Apr. 14.

A combined meeting of the China Coast Officers' and Marine Engineers' Guilds at noon yesterday decided to suspend the service on the Hongkong-Kongmoon run until naval escorts are provided against piracy.

Later.

It has been arranged that armed naval launches shall escort steamers on the Kongmoon run. H.M.S. Tarantula and H.M.S. Cicala have been assigned to the duty.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

FOREIGNER ASSAULTED IN PEKING

Unprovoked Attack on British Visitor by Member of the Chinese Guard

Peking, Apr. 13.

Another case of assault against a foreigner by a Chinese soldier occurred near the Water Gate on the Tartar Wall this morning, when Mr. A. P. Campbell, a British subject who is visiting Peking on business, was the victim of an unprovoked attack by one of the guards of the Ministry of War. His assailant is in the hands of the Legation Quarter Police.

Mr. Campbell had left the Wagons-Lits Hotel for a walk on the wall and met the soldier in question near the top of the rampart. The latter halted in front of him and endeavoured to bar his way. Not understanding the man's intention, Mr. Campbell brushed past him and went on his way, but had only gone a few steps when the soldier struck him on the jaw from behind. Mr. Campbell promptly knocked him down, but the man rushed him again and struck him on the head with a handkerchief full of coppers which he was carrying. Again Mr. Campbell retaliated, and again his assailant struck him with his awkward weapon, this time inflicting a nasty cut on the jaw.

The encounter had been observed by the police at the Water Gate and also by an American soldier, and they promptly came to Mr. Campbell's assistance and placed the soldier under arrest. There is no indication of what the latter's motive in making trouble can have been, but he is reported to have interfered with another foreigner earlier in the day, and it is evident that for some reason he was spoiling for a fight.

An investigation is proceeding.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPAN'S INTEREST IN RUSSIAN FISHERIES

New Agreement: Japan Paying Rent and Submitting to Restrictions

According to information so far available, the number of Siberian fishing grounds to be leased by Japanese fishing interests from Russia on a three-year contract is 232 against last year's 268. Notwithstanding this decrease, the rent shows an increase of some Y. 160,000, the price agreed upon for the present year being Y.1,450,000. As Japanese fishing interests will be called upon a pay Y. 400,000, together with interest thereupon, which amounts to some Y.20,000, representing a portion of the unpaid rent falling due in October, the total sum to be paid by them under the new agreement this year will reach Y.2,420,000. Besides the above disadvantages, they are to put up with restrictions upon the amount of catches, methods of fishing, etc. In such circumstances, some Japanese are complaining that it is impossible to carry on.

The Government, on the other hand, thinks that the contract concluded was the best that could be obtained under existing circumstances. Japan's insistance upon her terms would have rendered the conclusion of a general contract impossible, with the result that the Japanese would have been obliged to take "French leave." The practice of free fishing might not have produced very serious consequences in the days when the Vladivostok Administration stood on a weak basis, but the pursuit of such a course at the present time would not fail to affect relations with Russia to a serious extent. All Japanese residents in Siberia might then be forced to withdraw from that territory. The conclusion of the present agreement has obviated the possibility of such contingencies, and consequently, the authorities believe, it cannot be regarded as a failure.

Japanese fishing interests are going to ask the Government for financial aid to enable them to carry on operation without loss. The rent under the new arrangement is Y. 920,000 higher than the price which they think proper, and they desire that the Government may come to their help to that extent for three years. It is estimated that the free fishing during the last three years involved the Government in an outlay of some Y.5,000,000 in the dispatch of warships and the provision of other safeguards for the protection of Japanese interests. The arrangement just made saves the Government this expenditure, and consequently, they argue, they are justified in their claim of the Government's financial help to save from losses which may be caused by the new contract.—"Japan Chronicle"

JAPAN'S FISHERY IN RUSSIAN WATERS

Secured from Vladivostok So No More Use for Karakhan

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Apr. 16.

It is reliably reported here today that the Russo-Japanese negotiations have been completely broken off.

The Japanese, it is rumoured, have secured the fishery rights, which are their chief economic interest, from Vladivostok by independent purchase. They are therefore indifferent to M. Karakhan's proposals and are satisfied to break off the negotiations.

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JAPAN'S EXPANSION ABROAD

Finance Minister's View of Earthquake Consequences: The Fall in Exchange

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, April 5.

Declaring that the Government will make every effort to assist Japanese in Manchuria, China and the South Seas "because attempts to assist them will eventually lead to expansion of Japan abroad," Mr. Shoda, Minister of Finance, exhorted merchant princes of Osaka, Japan's commercial metropolis, to co-operate with the Government in this direction. "It is important and essential for Japan to expand abroad," declared Mr. Shoda, "for Japan's population is already too large and she lacks important natural products."

The Japanese press interprets Mr. Shoda's speech as part of a pro-Government electioneering campaign, and asks why the Finance Minister was not more explicit in declaring what ways and means will be taken to establish Japanese expansion in foreign lands.

Touching on the depreciation of the yen Mr. Shoda said that he intends to stabilize the rate on America at 42 or 43 cents to the Japanese unit of currency. He declared that the more the yen rises, the better is it for importers and the worse for exporters and that the Government is trying to reach a point which will prove favourable both to importers and exporters.

"I regret that the unfavourable terms at which Japan's foreign loans were closed have led to a fall in exchange," said the Minister of Finance, who then went into an explanation of the "difficult circumstances under which the loans were negotiated."

"As the result of the earthquake last year," went on Mr. Shoda, "the budget for the fiscal year of 1924 has swollen to an enormous sum. The Government seeks to secure an understanding with Kwansai (Western Japan in which Kobe and Osaka are situated) business men, now that Osaka has become the source of Japan's industrial and commercial activity."

Mr. Shoda concluded by urging Kwansai business men to buy Government domestic bonds to the full extent their exchequers permit.

SINGAPORE AND HAWAII.

"If the fortification of Singapore by Great Britain is to be regarded as contrary to the spirit of the Washington conference for the limitation of naval armament, then the fortification of Pearl Harbour, in Hawaii, by the United States should also be regarded as such," declared Vice-Admiral Kenkichi Ide, of the Japanese Navy, who returned to Japan yesterday after a trip abroad.

Vice-Admiral Ide was Vice-Minister of the Navy under the late Premier Tomosaburo Kato when the latter held both the position of Premier and Navy Minister after he returned from Washington where he was Japan's chief spokeman during the armament limitation parleys.

"I have heard various reports regarding the possibility of President Coolidge calling another arms limitation conference," said Vice-Admiral Ide to your representative, "but, in my opinion, there is no need, under the present circumstances, for convening such a conference. The nations which sat at the round table conference convened by President Harding are faithfully fulfilling their obligations, and if there is any attempt to pile up armaments, this is only being done in the realm of aircraft, and, as aircraft made to serve peace pursuits can be converted overnight for combatant purposes, how can restriction be imposed? In the matter of auxiliary vessels, there is no competition at all."

Reverting to the Singapore base question Vice-Admiral Ide said: "It is strange that the Japanese people are talking so much about Singapore which is outside the scope of the agreement reached at Washington, so that Great Britain is perfectly free to do as she likes with Singapore. If the erection of a naval base at Singapore is to be regarded as contrary to the spirit underlying the Washington Conference, then the fortifications being thrown up at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, should also be so regarded, yet no comment is being made in Japan regarding Hawaii. Now, however, since the Singapore base plan has been temporarily dropped, there is no need to talk about it, for it is, for the time being, a dead issue."

PEIYANG STUDENTS ON STRIKE

185 Now Expelled: Attempts to Intimidate Those Who emain at Work

Tientsin News Service.

Tientsin, Apr. 9.

A proclamation issued this afternoon by the Peiyang University and posted in a prominent place on the Campus dismisses 185 students for failing to return to classes yesterday, or to apply for official leave. This leaves 164 students on the rolls, 62 of whom have been in continuous attendance and 102 of whom have obtained leave of absence.

The proclamation mentions each student by name and cites the University's reasons for dropping him from the rolls. The University caused to be published in the Chinese press during the past few days a notification requesting striking students to return or apply for leave by yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. This notice also mentioned each student by name.

In an effort to intimidate students remaining at their studies a delegation of strikers visited the campus three days ago. They met with no success except that several faithful students, afraid of what might happen to them if they acted otherwise, obtained official leave of absence for a few days until the situation becomes calmer.

Some non-striking students, who took advantage of the temporary lull in school activities to visit their families in Peking, were prevented from returning at the Chien Mên station by striking students in the capital. It is reported that some were also turned back at Tientsin Central and East Stations.

It is learned that the students have petitioned the Provincial Assembly, with a long recital of grievances, most of which are considered irrelevant. It is reported that the students have received some financial assistance from Peking and Tientsin student associations as well as from other interested sources.

In response to the closest inquiries this service is informed that the University, which includes the Chihli Governmental authorities behind it, is resolved to maintain its stand *vis-à-vis* of the students without the slightest suggestion of compromise. It is felt that an Institution which spends $450 per annum per student, who pays back only $30 has some right to determine its own schedule and system of education.

ENGLISH CHURCH IN JAPAN

Movement to Raise £30,000 for Restoration Fund

London, Apr. 10.

The Japanese Ambassador, Baron Hayashi, and other distinguished personages to-day attended a meeting at the Mansion House, presided over by the Lord Mayor, in support of the movement to raise £30,000 for the English Church in Tokio and Yokohama restoration fund, of which the Prince of Wales has agreed to become patron.

The Japanese Ambassador presented the Lord Mayor with a book containing the signatures of a thousand leading Japanese in Tokio and Yokohama as an expression of gratitude for the help afforded by the Lord Mayor's earthquake fund.—Reuter.

COSSACKS STRANDED IN MANILA

Anxious to Secure Entry into United States But Prospects Poor

Manila, Apr. 3.

A dozen Russian Cossacks, who came to Manila from Shanghai to give exhibitions in horsemanship during the annual carnival in February, are stranded and are now living on charity. They had expected to continue their voyage to Singapore, where further exhibitions were to be given, but their plans did not materialize.

The Cossacks, like Admiral Stark and his 250 countrymen who have been quartered at the Olongapo naval station for more than a year, believe their difficulties would be ended if they could reach the United States. In company with Mr. Teodoro R. Yangco, philanthropist and former resident commissioner at Washington, the Cossacks called on Governor-General Wood to enlist his aid in securing their entry into the United States. The Governor-General held out little encouragement to the refugees in view of strict immigration regulations, but told them he would present their case to the authorities at Washington through the War Department.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GOVERNOR OF ANHUI PUBLICLY SNUBBED

Students' Opportunity to Take Vengeance for Educational Funds' Disappearance

From Our Own Correspondent.

Anking, April 8.

The annual tree-planting festival which for some years past has taken the place of the usual grave dressing rites or Ch'ing Ming, was celebrated with the usual display and vainglorious show here on Saturday, April 5.

All the schools of the city marched out in fine order with flags flying and drums beating to the appointed place on the neighbouring hills. Here a large canopy of gay bunting had been erected in a natural amphitheatre which affords an advantageous view of the surrounding country. After setting out a few trees by way of ceremony the long lines of students each school—both girls and boys—in some uniform colour, drew up in good order in front of the canopied stage in the hot sunshine to listen to the many speakers who were better sheltered.

Long lines of soldiers guarded the place as though trouble might momentarily be expected, while all along the road were stationed single sentinels with fixed bayonets doubtless affording ample protection for the thousands of city folks who flocked out in the wake of the students and officials. But protection of the existing trees was apparently not a part of the guards' duty for ruthless crowds spread over the country in all directions despoiling fruit trees of their blossoms, climbing into the branches and tearing off every flower in reach, leaving only the bare denuded trees.

STUDENTS' SNUB FOR GOVERNOR.

Toward the end of the ceremony the Governor, Ma Lien-chia, appeared upon the scene heavily guarded by trusty troops all carrying bayoneted rifles in which cartridge clips had been placed, ready for any emergency which a guilty conscience always fears. However, one thing he had not taken into account and that was the "non-cooperative" attitude of the students themselves. In spite of the fact that schools have been open and running for a month, even though short of funds, the students apparently had not forgotten the rebuffs of last year, or else they did not want to lose an opportunity to discredit the present military *régime*. Whatever their motive, concerted action must have been previously decided upon for no sooner had the Governor mounted the platform and begun his speech than the students turned their backs, fell into line and marched off the hill; and without so much as turning their heads nor stopping the din of their instruments at once set off on the return march to the city as though the affair, for them at least, was all over. Enraged and chagrined the Governor returned to his yamên and refused to see anyone for the rest of the day. What the result will be no one seems to know, but the teachers, the payment of whose salaries is already uncertain, fear that the consequence may fall upon them.

SOLDIER POLITICIANS OF JAPAN

Candidates for Elections: The Meiji Era Upheld: More Secret Influence

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, April 5.

Retired army and navy men, thirsting after political glory, have emerged from the obscurity of being on the inactive list and have thrown their hats into the political arena of the coming general elections. They include three retired admirals and three retired generals. In addition, a number of officers of lesser rank of the army and navy have come forth as candidates seeking election to the Diet. About 150 general officers on the retired list have organized a political body and propose canvassing actively on behalf of the candidates from the fighting forces.

In the course of a statement they declare that, in supporting candidates from the Army and the Navy, it is their object "to bring forward the illustrious achievements of the late Emperor Meiji and to follow and extend the august wishes of the Reigning Emperor."

Among the sailor candidates out to secure legislative honours is Admiral Tochinai, a former Vice-Minister of the Navy and commander of the Japanese squadron in the South Seas during the European war. Admiral Tochinai proposes to run from Morioka city, the home town of the late Premier Hara.

Vice-Admiral Keizaburo Moriyama, who was recommended by the artisans of Kure as Japan's delegate to the international labour conference last year, will run from the naval port of Kure.

Rear-Admiral Ichizen Yamaji, son-in-law of former Premier Count Yamamoto, himself a naval man holding the rank of admiral, also proposes to take the field. Admiral Yamaji was commander of the Japanese squadron in the Mediterranean during the recent war.

General Horiuchi, who played an important part in the operations conducted by the Japanese army against the Germans at Tsingtao, is the chief Army figure desirous of entering politics. Another well-known Army man is General Tsunekichi Kono, famous here for his brilliant essays on military life who is regarded as the "new type" of Army man in Japan.

The significance of the Army and Navy men seeking political office is not only that they are entering politics, for they have exercised political influence from behind the scenes through the War and the Navy offices, but that they are drifting away from the career of a professional fighter. The inelasticity of naval and military pay envelopes is largely responsible for this and even more the waning prestige of careers that once were held as the most honourable in the land. For the past half a century, the Army and the Navy offered the quickest and surest road to fame, to rich marriages, to social and other distinction. Of late, and especially since the end of the recent war, this glory has become dimmed and the once despised commercial man and merchant is now the ambition of the youthful aspirants of Japan.

A lawsuit brought in Mukden regarding the rouble notes issued by the Russo-Asiatic Bank, has led to a speculation in the Russian notes by local Chinese. From 200 to 300 million roubles worth changed hands in a day.

A NEW PROVINCE OF NORTH WEST CHINA

With a Most Unromantic Name: Cannot Government Find One More Appropriate?

From Our Own Correspondent.

Sining, Mar. 19.

"Kan-pien"—By the side of Kansuh. Surely a more interesting name might be found for this most entrancing New Province. Ch'wan-pien for the New Province to the West of Szechuan is very tame indeed for that weird land with its scores of tribes, but it is now too late to change. But the Government surely can find a better name than "Kan-pien." Far better stick to Ch'ing-hai, which gives it a halo. The very name of Ch'ing-hai creates a longing in the heart to pierce into the wilds and survey the wonderful sea and all its surroundings whereas "Kan-pien" seems like a dry log, no beauty in it.

Critics may say that Kan-pien has a similarity to the names in the other provinces such as Hopeh, Honan, Shansi, Shantung, etc. Quite true. These homely names seem appropriate for the quiet, easy-going, industrious matter-of-fact Chinese. But we want a name for that fascinating, mysterious, weird land of Northern Tibet, something partaking of its character and that retains an enchantment about it.

Will not the Government authorities try again and find a better name? In the event of their failing, why not retain Ch'ing-hai?

STEADY ADVANCE.

The High Commissioner is steadily making headway in bringing the New Province into life. Already the city wall of Dulan-sz has been built by the soldiers and a magistrate appointed. The office is certainly not a very opulent one. Most of the inhabitants at present are soldiers, who are not accustomed to pay taxes. We might well call the official a Hermit Official, for he has nothing to do but sit in his yamên all day long meditating how long it will be ere he will be transferred from his lonely position to an office where he can afford to keep his family from poverty's door. Such a position as his would be a unique place for the official who finds in Buddhism a balm for his longing soul.

Jykegundo is a little more lively than Dulan-sz, for there are a few Shansi merchants there, and 100 soldiers. The city is small but there is a large district inhabited by Tibetans and several important Lamaseries.

Labrang and Paongan districts are to be made into Hsiens.

A fine new barracks has just been erected outside the east gate of Huangpien, which has given a more imposing entrance to that border city.

AN ENTERPRISING OFFICIAL.

When an official devotes nearly all his time and energy for the benefit of the people under his care, it gives one much pleasure to cheer him on, as we find so few that care for little else than what they can get out of their position. Mr. Ch'en Tseh-fan has been the Huang-yuen magistrate for four years, and during his office has been just and upright, seeking the welfare of his people. He also has made the plans and superintended the building of the New Schools, which are a model for other schools. Recently he has been removed to Nienpeh Hsien, and no sooner has he taken up office, than he has had men employed to repair the mule road in the Laoya pass, which has been in a dangerous condition owing to past floods Though over 60 he is still very active. A native of Ch'angsha, he has spent most of his time in the New Dominion, having held office in Kashgar.

JAPANESE SUBMARINE DISASTER

Tokio, Apr. 13.

The submarine which sank on March 19 has been towed into Sasebo harbour, where the work of raising it will be made easier.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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JAPANESE NEWSPAPER EDITORS

Irresponsibility that Needs to Be Curbed: Typical Cases in Tsingtao

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, April 10.

The irresponsibility of Japanese newspaper editors has been the subject of comment on the part of foreigners from time to time. This is not only true of Japan but is also a feature here. Since the advent of the new Administration, foreigners in Tsingtao have been furnished with two examples of this irresponsibility, and in one case a denial issued by the American Consulate in connexion with a grossly misleading and harmful report is published without any expression of regret.

The first report was that Mr. W. Adams, the American Consul, had approached Mr. Kao En-hung with the recommendation that Mr. D. Y. Lin, Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry, should not be dismissed with the 147 advisors and officials who were struck off the pay roll. Acting upon this recommendation, the report went on to say, Mr. Kao decided to allow Mr. Lin to remain at his post.

Foreign residents are surprised that it did not occur to the Japanese editor who passed this report that it was inconceivable how a foreign official could interfere with a domestic Administration in the matter of its personnel, unless it directly concerned the foreign community.

The other report was that since his assumption of office, Mr. Kao had gone out of his way to befriend the white people. This, unquestionably, is an untruth. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Kao had conferred on several occasions with foreign business men over the question of harbour facilities, following the dissolution of the coolie monopoly hitherto held by the Kao-Tsi Transportation Company. There was no attempt to "befriend the white people" at the expense of the Japanese at all. The first meeting convened by Mr. Kao was also attended by Japanese business men, but the latter, following their usual custom, retired for the purpose of deliberating amongst themselves and, unquestionably, for the purpose of conferring with their consular authorities for it is quite well-known that Japanese business men seldom take a decisive step in a substantial issue without first reaching an agreement with their Consulate-General. While the Japanese were deliberating, the foreign merchants called on Mr. Kao on several occasions for the purpose of expressing their views.

Then, in the matter of news reports, no Japanese newspaper man would seem to have taken the trouble of calling upon the Administration for information. Unlike your correspondent and other foreign newspaper men, Japanese pressmen would seem to have relied upon reports submitted by questionable sources.

The irresponsibility of Japanese papers do not rest on incidents reported here. Their own nationals are not immune. Some time ago, a series of articles was run to the detriment of the reputation of the wife of a prominent local Japanese, and simply because she and her husband had attended foreign dances. It was claimed that any indulgence in Western forms of amusement was detrimental to the prestige of Japanese women who should observe the rules of *Ryosai-Kenbo* (good wife-good mother). Foreign residents declare that if Japanese editors could eschew the output of *usotsuki* (lying) writers half of the battle would be won.

It must be admitted, however, that the Japanese-owned English-language newspaper has not been a party to this irresponsibility. In connexion with the report that Mr. Adams had recommended the retention of Mr. Lin, it wrote:—"The "Leader" was informed of this report but naturally refrained from publishing it. It occurred to us as being inconceivable that any foreign official representative would deem it his duty to interfere with the Administration in the selection of its personnel, unless it directly concerned the foreign community. In retaining Mr. Lin, the Administration was merely showing its appreciation of his honest efforts when he was with the former *régime*."

TAX ON CIGARETTES IN KIANGSI

Provincial Government Seeking to Raise Funds for Militarist Aims

From a Correspondent.

Kiukiang, Apr. 11.

It is reported that, in order to raise funds, the Provincial Government of Kiangsi intends to impose a tax on cigarettes, following the example of Kiangsu and Anhui.

It was reported in the vernacular press several weeks ago that a group of business men, headed by Mr. Pan Shio-hai, had already applied to the Kiangsi Government for the right to farm such tax on payment of a certain sum of money. As the amount offered was too small, however, and the tax had not then been put into force in the other provinces, the matter was postponed. Now, it is officially reported that Mr. Tsao Er-huei, former Taoyin of Southern Kiangsi, is anxious to secure the monopoly and, in the name of his brother, Tsao Er-tsai, has sent several letters on the subject to Gen. Tsai.

Henceforward the tax on cigarettes will be another effective tool for the strengthening of militarism in Kiangsi.

CANTON NOTES

Soviet Not Recognized Yet: War on Gen. Chen Chiung-ming

Peking, Apr. 9.

Advices from Canton indicate that apprehension that Dr. Sun Yat-sen would, independently of Peking, recognize the Soviet Government, is now abating. The Canton Government is, however, sympathetic toward the Russian delegates in their negotiations with Peking, and the local press is placing the responsibility for failure to reach an agreement on the Chinese Government.

It is stated that an attack on Gen. Chen Chiung-ming is still contemplated, but is likely to be delayed indefinitely owing to the attitude of Dr. Sun's Hunanese troops, who are unruly and troublesome.

An interesting report has it that Dr. Sun has two German military experts in his employ, one of whom is attached to police headquarters and the other to the arsenal where he is said to be giving instruction in the preparation and use of poison-gas.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE NAVAL ESTIMATES

Tokio, Apr. 13.

The supplementary naval estimates for reconstruction in consequence of the damage caused by the earthquake last September were announced to-day. They amount to Y.92,000,000, of which Y.26,000,000 is for buildings and Y.66,000,000 for armament. The former is spread over eight years and the latter over 10 years.

The appropriation for 1924 amounts to Y.4,000,000, of which Y.1,500,000 is for Yokosuka naval station. There is also an appropriation of Y.6,500,000 for the discharge allowances of 10,000 navy-yard employees who are being dismissed according to the Navy readjustment plans.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A peculiar effect of an earthquake is reported in messages received from Tayabas province, Phillipine Islands, where many tons of coconuts were shaken to the ground by the waving trees set in motion by a shock. No other damage was done.

JAPAN'S FOREST LANDS

Treeless Hills Appearing: Pressing Need to Replace Timber Felled for Reconstruction

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio. Apr. 2.

The indifferent attitude of the Japanese to afforestation and the large number of trees that have had to be cut down to furnish lumber for reconstruction following the earthquake disaster has resulted in the appearance of a number of treeless mountains throughout the country. This has prompted the Department of the Imperial Household to establish a large forestry experimental station at the base of Mount Takao, near Hachioji, where various saplings are being grown for the purpose of transplanting to forests where the large trees have been cut down for lumber. In order recall the attention of the nation to the importance of re-afforestation, the Imperial Household Department has requested an endowment from the Emperor to establish the station. The endowment has just been granted.

One of the first acts in the way of reconstructing Tokio was taken by the Emperor who, in September last, gave direct orders for the cutting down of several stately cryptomeria trees—for decades the pride and joy of Tokio and which the fires failed to reach. These trees could not be felled without direct orders from the Emperor and these orders to utilize them for more utilitarian purposes were issued soon after the calamity through the Imperial Household Department.

The number of trees already felled and to be felled to meet the demands for rehabilitation of the stricken regions are already beginning to tell on the timber supply of the country. and many persons fear that if matters in this direction are allowed to drift as they have been doing Japan will be faced with a timber famine before long.

The authorities are of the opinion that the most glaring cases of neglect in regard to afforestation are to be found in private-owned lands and estates, and steps are to be taken to compel everyone to replace trees cut down by others.

Income taxes on forest earnings are the lowest of the taxes levied on landed property in Japan and are made only at the time the trees are cut down, while the tax is only about 3.3 per cent. of the value of the forest property.

KIANGSI'S FEAR OF FUKIEN

Rumours of Invasion Ended: Steadier Tone on Markets: Opium Trade

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kanchow, Ki., April 1.

The rumours of an invasion from Fukien served their purpose, and are now a thing of the past. The money market is again steadier, and the Kiangsi banknotes have re-acquired their former value. It seems that the Fukien rumours were spread by Suen Ts'ung-fan, for his own strategical reasons, in connexion with local fighting in that province, and that there was no serious intention to attack this province. Soldiers have returned here. Commander-in-chief Ting, of the Northern army, came in here from the south of the province on the 28th, and received an ovation from the merchants, who say that the peace of the city has not been so secure for some time. It seems that at a city 60 miles south of here he had 1,000 disaffected men of Kao Liu-chang's brigade disarmed in a surprise attack, and took over all their guns, and equipment without losing man. The act added to the security of his force. No fighting is now reported on the border. Trade is a little better than it has been, but there is still a good deal of restriction from the conscripting of boats, and coolies. The Government Middle, and Normal Schools have been reopened, although there are still soldiers quartered in them. They are carrying on under difficulties.

The opium trade here has gained a great impetus from the new policy of the officials, who now allow it to be sold openly everwhere in the district. There is now no restriction whatever placed on the trade, except the customary taxes. Up till the present the trade has been carried on under fancy names, such as "Star cloth," "Earth," and so on, but now these are quite unnecessary.

NATURE OBEDIENT TO CHINESE CALENDAR

Usual Sunshine for Festival of "Pure Brightness" at Wuchang

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wuchang, April 5.

To-day is Ching Ming, or "Pure Brightness," and as so often seems to be the case with the Chinese weather, nature is obedient to the calendar, for the sun is shining brightly, the sky is clear, and the warmest day so far this year has to be recorded. This is the day of the tree-planting, when all the chief officials of the city come to the plantation below the Hung Shan and take part in the ceremony. It is also the day when people visit the graves of their relatives, to burn silver paper shoes and to mourn the departed.

Between the hours of 9 and 10 a.m., the stream of holiday-makers issuing from the East Gate was typical of the crowds who will be spending the day out in the open. First, one met a detachment of police in black uniforms, then a boys' school, marching in twos, neatly dressed in khaki jackets and shorts, and preceded by their own drum and fife band playing merrily. These were followed by a girls' school, in blue uniform with short skirts. After these a boys' school in white, a small troop of soldiers, and a band of boy scouts. Mixed with these more orderly detachments were many people in rickshas, more elderly folk in sedan chairs, and an official in a horse carriage. Several picnickers' carried baskets, in which thermos flasks were mixed up with paper shoes, a hideous clash of East with West.

BUDDHIST DREAMS TRUE.

A story comes from Huangkang about some idols which are said to have been dug up there. According to the native press, a devout Buddhist gentleman had a dream, in which it was revealed to him that some idols were hidden in the ground. He hired some coolies to dig in a certain spot, and sure enough, at a depth of seven or eight feet they came across three idols. They are said to be not very old, but probably belong to the close of the late Ching Dynasty. A characteristic touch is given to the story by the fact that "one of the coolies was taken ill, but became better again on worshipping the idols."

GOVERNOR'S YOUTHFUL MENTOR.

During the recent birthday celebrations of the Governor, marshal Hsiao Yaonan, a school-boy from Boone University did an unusual thing. He took it into his head to send a birthday present to the Governor of a pair of scrolls written by himself. One of the scrolls presented the usual respects and congratulations due to the great. The other, referred to the unhappy condition of the people, and conveyed more than a broad hint that the Governor might do much to amend it, if he would. The youth, it is said, marched boldly into the yamên and deposited his gift among the many other presents of various kinds collected there. It is said also that he managed to secure a seat at the feast which accompanied the celebrations.

The death is announced at Dumfries, on February 27, of Marjorie Struthers, eldest daughter of the Rev. George Douglas, of Manchuria, aged 27 years.

PEASANT MEANNESS

Japanese Rural Population's Utter Lack of Sympathy for Quake Victims in Towns

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Apr. 2.

Tokio people are wringing their hands over the alleged ingratitude of their country cousins. Violent thrusts and parries are being made in the metropolitan press by the country people defending themselves and the townsfolk insisting that the earthquake proved that the people of the rural regions, when the test came, were lacking in the fundamentals of gratitude.

When the calamity of September broke loose, nearly every Japanese in Tokio and Yokohama conjured up in his mind's eye his country relatives. The country seemed to be such an Arcadia, with, so it was thought, the good village folks bursting with anxiety to assist victims. But the average Tokioite complains that the disillusionment was as painful as it was real.

Country people, so complain denizens of the cities, looked upon the visitations on Tokio and Yokohama as richly deserved—as the finger of God, smiting them for their wickedness. The country folks are taxed with having given themselves all manner of sanctimonious airs and delivering clever homilies on the luxury and sinfulness of the cities which had drawn on them the heavenly wrath.

Have the country folk changed? That is the question that is being discussed in the columns of the press and in magazines with even greater heat and ardour than the prospects for defeating the Ministry at the coming general elections. As a matter of fact, the consensus of unbiased opinion states, the country folks have not changed one whit. What has happened is that Tokio people overestimated the humanity of the country relative, and forget that, whether urban or rural, a human is at the best but a human, invested largely with the same vicious tendencies over which the Saints have mourned from time immemorial. The country people generally took the stand that God helps him who helps himself and watched to see the refugees help themselves first.

DISILLUSIONED.

Townspeople now state that they had not given the villager credit for even greater shrewdness than the city people claim to possess. They say that the earthquake showed that the rural being has more commercial acumen and diplomatic dexterity.

RESULT OF TYPHOONS IN THE BABUYANS

Large Death Roll Amongst Male Population: an Excess of Women

Manila, Apr. 2.

The recent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in the Babuyan Islands, situated about 60 miles north of the island of Luzon, have brought forth statements from mariners, who recently have been in that region, that a large portion of the population is composed of women. It is said that the situation is due to the fact that so many of the men have lost their lives at sea.

The male population are engaged almost entirely in fishing as a means of livelihood, and the frequent typhoons which sweep over that region play havoc with the frail fishing craft.

It is stated that on one island of the group with a population of about 200 there are 15 women to one man.

Transportation to the Babuyan group is difficult as small craft are unable to cross the channel on account of rough waters, and large vessels seldom call at the islands because the volume of business does not warrant it.

The constabulary of Cagayan province have been ordered to ascertain the condition of the people of the Babuyans and to furnish them with supplies.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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TRAGEDY AT MIENCHOW

Cruel Fate of Young Bride and Her Father: A Sorrowing Soldier Husband

From Our Own Correspondent.

Mienchow, Sze., Mar. 24.

There has been an extraordinary case in the local courts recently which combined tragedy and drama coincidence in a way that equals China's best novels. A sergeant, Hsiong, who was stationed at Tongchuan married a Mienchow girl. After the wedding they settled at Tongchuan for a time. In the course of events he was removed to another place, and sent his wife to her parents at Mienchow. He afterwards wrote to his father-in-law asking him to bring his wife to join him at his new post. The father set off with his daughter little dreaming of the fateful journey. When they reached Fuhluhchi, 60 li from Mienchow they fell in with the villain of the piece. He was a local street warden, a man of some influence in the Tongchuan district. He got into conversation with the two travellers and cast his eyes on the girl.

"Where are you taking the girl to?" he inquired.

"Oh she is going to join her husband at—" was the reply.

"It is false," then said he, "you are abducting her." The man so contrived that the father was killed, and buried by one of his minions. He then appropriated the woman, but she died in a few days.

Meanwhile the sergeant wondered what had happened to his wife and her father. Eventually he returned to Mienchow and inquired of his mother-in-law. She in unfeigned surprise asked what he meant. "They left weeks ago to join you." This he did not believe, and accused her to the magistrate, who put her in prison to await inquiries.

GIRL'S MOTHER FALSELY ACCUSED.

The man who had acted as middleman at the betrothal of the two was a street warden as well as an old friend of the family. Feeling convinced that the mother was innocent he sent a member of the local militia down to Tongchuan to seek for information of the missing couple. He arrived there just at the time when the 1st Army were engaged in strengthening the position they were so soon to lose. The military took him and put him in prison for a spy. There was another militia man there in the same prison and of course the two talked. The man from Mienchow told his companion in misfortune the story of the missing father and daughter, and how having come to find news of them he had been imprisoned as a spy.

MURDERER TAKEN AT LAST.

But now comes the climax. "I know all about them," said the other. "I am the servant of Yin, the man who killed them, and I helped to bury them. He now thinks I know too much, and has put me here on a false charge to screen himself."

The Mienchow man wrote a letter to his employer telling of his plight, and his dramatic discovery. The street warden at once informed the magistrate with the result that the murderer was taken. Unfortunately as the sequel proved, owing to his influence at Tongchuan he was taken to that city instead of to Mienchow. While he lay there at the end of last January the 2nd Army bombarded Tongchuan. The prison was badly damaged, he escaped, and is apparently still at large. Another version is that he was helped to evade the punishment he so richly deserves.

BANDITS ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR.

At present the bandits are quite friendly. A traveller on the road between Mienchow and Sintu recently writes: "Brigands kindly escorted us through their spheres of influence. I have never seaen so many before. They were on their best behaviour, and talked to us most politely in the ions."

They have a lot to atone for! Only one of their sins is the way they treated the Government School inspector of the Tehyang District last year. His brother, inspector of Mienchow, told me that they took him while out on his rounds and treated him so badly that he only came home to die.

JAPANESE CONSULS IN CONFERENCE

Peking, Apr. 11.

The conference of Japanese Consuls in North and Central China was opened this morning at 10 o'clock at the Japanese Legation here, under the chairmanship of Mr. Yoskizawa, the Japanese Minister.

The following are the important items of the agenda to be discussed at the conference:—(1) Protection of and control over Japanese residents in China; (2) Control over Japanese trafficking in opium, morphia, and cocaine; (3) Investigation into unreasonable taxation upon Japanese residents in China; (4) Improvement of Japanese judicial affairs in China; (5) Education of Japanese children in China; (6) Furtherance of Japan's trade with China; (7) Protection and development of Japanese shipping in Chinese waters.—Eastern News Agency.

SIR W. REES DAVIES

Enthusiastic Gathering at Farewell Dinner to Hongkong's Retiring Chief Justice

Hongkong, Apr. 13.

Following a dinner given in his honour by the Chinese community last week, Sir William Rees Davies, the retiring Chief Justice, was last night entertained at dinner by the British and foreign communities. Sir Reginald Stubbs and Sir John Fowler were present, and Sir Paul Chater presided. A large number of representatives of the Chinese and foreign communities attended.

Mr. A. G. Stephen, who made a characteristically witty speech, proposed the toast of the guest of the evening. He alluded to Sir William Rees Davies's exceptionally successful career and high sense of justice and fair play, and spoke of how Sir William had consented to serve as a steward of the Jockey Club and of the committee of the Hongkong Club.

The Chief Justice, in a brilliant reply, thanked those present for their spontaneous demonstration, and his old friend Sir Paul Chater. He laid stress on his association with the social and sporting life of the Colony at which he had spent 17 very heavy years. 12 of them as Chief Justice. He hoped that Hongkong would retain kindly thoughts of him after his departure.

On behalf of his Welsh fellow-countrymen, Mr. J. Owen Hughes presented Sir William with a Welsh flag.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WIRELESS STATIONS IN JAPAN

Establishment of Direct Communication With Europe

Tokio, Apr. 8.

In order to put this country into direct radio communication with Europe, particularly with the Nauen and Bordeaux wireless stations, plans are being matured for the erection of two wireless plants, transmitting and receiving, in Central Japan.

The former is to be erected at Isami-mura in Aichi prefecture, and the latter at Kaizo-mura, Mie prefecture.

When in operation, these two stations will complete the present plans laid down by the Government for Japan's radio system. Communications with Europe will be maintained through these stations. The Iwaki station will handle the American service, and the Hirano station in Osaka will be used for messages to and from Japanese colonies and territories, Formosa, Korea, Manchuria, etc.

The domestic radio service will be handled through the Central radio station.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NAVIGATION IN THE UPPER YANGTZE

Accident to Steamers in Low Water Season: Disastrous Fire at Ichang

Ichang, Apr. 9.

Another steamer belonging to the Yangtze Rapid Steamship Company has had an accident on the Upper Yangtze. The Chichuen struck rocks above Kuei fu, and also at Miaoho, and has been rather badly holed. Fortunately they managed to patch her up sufficiently to bring her down here, though she was long delayed, and now, after having been surveyed in this port, she has been ordered to Shanghai for repairs to her bottom. This is the second time the Chichuen has been holed during the low water period.

The river has now started to rise, but is not yet deep enough for the larger steamers to venture the trip up-river. They are slowly collecting here, waiting for a depth of water that will take them up safely, when several will make a rush for Chungking. The water mark to-day is 3.4.

There was a disastrous fire here on April 5. It broke out amongst some houses below the new Salt Administration premises, and as there was a strong wind fanning the flames, it looked, for a time, as if some of these new buildings might catch fire. However, the flames were stopped before reaching them, and it was very fortunate, for just beyond that again is the upper installation of the Standard Oil Company. It was pitiful to see the poor people who had lost almost all they possessed standing by the ruins, in the hope of perhaps salvaging something of their belongings.

YIHYANG MARU CAPTIVES.

Inquirers at the office of the N.Y.K. about the two officers of the Yih-yang Maru, who are still in the hands of soldiers or bandits in Szechuan, have elicited the information that the Japanese Consul at Chungking has now got into touch with them. They are at a place called Hokiang, and the ransom for their release has been reduced to $100,000. The Company is prepared to pay this sum and the agent here expects that they will reach this port in three weeks or a month from now.

JAPANESE BOYCOTT REVIVED.

There is apparently an attempt being made to re-establish the Japanese boycott here. Posters are already appearing on the walls, declaring that "We will not recognize the 21 demands" and similar sentiments, and another long one refers to the boycott. These bear the name of a Shanghai printer and a rubber stamp indicates that they have been issued by some merchants' company of Shanghai. As yet the local boycott committee has taken no action and, if it does not get to work, it is probable that nothing further will be heard.

A SCHOOL PARADE.

Last Saturday was "*Ching Ming*" the festival of "Pure Brightness" and the Magistrate made it the occasion of a school parade. He had all the schools which have recently been started march out to one of the neighbouring hills, where he inspected them in person. The new Magistrate is the former principal of a school, and so he is much interested in education. Quite a number of new schools have been opened this year, and have taken away pupils from the Mission Schools, as these new schools are providing everything free of charge. There was a very large turn-out of scholars at this inspection.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The Tokio Metropolitan Police Board has announced its intention not to permit a labour demonstration or any parade of similar nature to take place on the streets on May Day on the ground that it will interfere with traffic, which is already in a deplorable condition since the September earthquake. The announcement was published shortly before labour leaders called at the police headquarters to obtain permission for a May Day demonstration.

CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN'S ALLEGED ASSASSIN

Tokio, Apr. 13.

The public trial of the youth charged with attempting to take the life of Prince Regent on December 27 will be held towards the end of this month.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

LAND RECLAMATION IN MONGOLIA

How a Thriving Enterprise Has Been Ruined

The Chinese Economic Bulletin publishes the following article on a land reclamation project in Mongolia:—

Wuyuan with a population of 25,000, is on the northern frontier of the Ordos Territory, Mongolia, situated near the point where the Yellow River makes a northward bend into the Mongolian Steppes. It was a sub-prefecture in the Tsing Dynasty, but was converted into a *hsien* district on the establishment of the Republic. Hsinglungchang is its busiest market town.

Out of the 328,000 square *li* of its territory, 216,000 chin or 21,000,000 mow are arable land. Reclamation of Wuyuan waste land was started under Government auspices is the latter part of the last century, when a reclamation bureau was organized. Seven trunk irrigation canals, each about 50 feet wide and over 100 *li* long, were dug by the bureau, in addition to two canals which were dug under private auspices. Lots of land were granted to applicants at a certain charge, in addition to which the tiller of the soil was to pay the Kuan Chu on Government rent, to the officials, and the Sui Chu or annual rent, to the Mongolian owners.

The Kuan Chu amounted to between $1 and $3 per chin, or 100 mow, a year and the Sui Chu ranged between 60 cents and a dollar. Payment for the land was to be made in three yearly instalments. This system was in vogue in the Tsing dynasty and seems to have worked well. Colonists, most of them ex-soldiers, flocked to Wuyuan and large tracts of undeveloped land were cultivated.

AN END TO PROSPERITY.

After the establishment of the Republic a military official under a special contract obtained the right to collect the rent for the Government, to which he pays a royalty of Tls. 40,000 yearly. This, however, marked the turning point of Wuyuan's prosperity. Farms have been deserted by colonists owing to the defective irrigation system caused by neglect in keeping the canals in good condition.

The greater part of the land at Wuyuan is composed of the silted up beds of the Yellow River, which frequently changes its course. The soil is alluvium and rich. Little fertilizer is used by Wuyuan farmers. The climate is rather severe during the winter months, and only one crop can be raised. The following figures showing monthly temperature at Wuyuan were taken in 1919: January, 13.30 Centigrade; February, 6.76; March, 1.54; April, 7.29; May, 18.21; June, 20.20; July, 25.53; August, 21.76; September, 16.28; October, 7.43; November, 2.71; December 10.68.

The yield per acre is not, however, bountiful as compared with yields in the interior. This is partly due to the neglect of the farmers, to whom weeding and harrowing are little known. Truck gardening is well developed, the yields of vegetables being better than those of cereals. At present there are about 900,000 mow of land cultivated at Wuyuan.

The Hankow Chinese press states that Sun Yat-sen has decided to send Dr. Wu Chiao-hsu, son of the late Dr. Wu Ting-fang, to Russia. Dr. Sun declares that the Canton Government is willing to recognize Soviet Russia without demanding any terms in exchange.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR GIRLS

Order that Raised a Storm in Shaohsing

From Our Own Correspondent.

Shaohsing, Chê., April 12.

At the opening of this term the Tsing Tuh Girls' School of this city instituted physical examinations by a Chinese lady physician for all girls in the school. Considerable opposition developed against such an innovation. The local papers took up the matter and declared that as a result of the new requirement all but eight of the 130 pupils had left the school. Letters have been coming to the principal from Hangchow and Shanghai inquiring about the matter. The facts of the case are that not a single pupil left the school, but that rather some were added as a result of the agitation.

Carpenters, masons, and painters are finding this a hard year. The "*feng shui*" has decreed that no houses shall be built during this year facing south. Only houses which face east or west may be built. As most people prefer a southern exposure the building trade languishes.

The annual meeting of the Chêkiang-Shanghai Baptist Association has just been held in this city, 144 delegates and visitors were in attendance representing 3238 members in Chêkiang and Shanghai. Among the visitors from out of town were the Rev. Peter Chuan of the National Christian Council and Mr. Gordon Poteat of Shanghai Baptist College. Reports presented indicated special progress in the matter of self support and the erection of chapel buildings.

TIENTSIN'S TELEPHONE PROBLEM

The Automatic in View

Tientsin, Apr. 11.

The question of whether or not Tientsin will have automatic telephones to replace the antiquated manual system will come up shortly for settlement between the Chinese Government Telephone Administration and the British Municipal Council. If the decision is against the automatic system it will mean the passage of another 10 years before it can again be considered, for to maintain the manual installation in proper proportion to the steady demand for increased service the Telephone Administration must shortly enlarge its plant at a considerably large cost.

Negotiations between the principals have continued for some time past and only now have reached the stage where a definite settlement may be expected. The Administration has been holding out for an increase in the present mannal 'phone rates of from $72 to $96 for business service and of from $60 to $84 for private service. If, however, the automatic system is agreed upon, this increase will be augmented by a further two dollars at least and possibly slightly more when the figures are finally worked out. Imperative demand for an early solution of the telephone problem is seen in the gradually diminishing number of available telephone numbers in the South Office, which covers the principal business district of Tientsin, and where only about 300 numbers remain. Inasmuch as it will take fully 18 months to install and begin service with an automatic system these numbers will be hardly sufficient to meet the most ordinary increased demand.

ROCKS OF THE RAPIDS

Accident to I.-C. S. Kingwo in Upper Yangtze

Ichang, Apr. 14.

The Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s str. Kingwo, proceeding to Chungking, yesterday morning struck the rocks at the Kungling rapid. The engine-room was holed, but the hole was covered with a tarpaulin and the steamer has returned here. The engineers had to work waist-deep in water. The ship is now being surveyed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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AMERICA AND JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS

Exclusion Amendment Adopted by Senate: Action of Congress Condemned by the Press as an Offensive Measure: Friendly Relations Imperilled

Washington, Apr. 12.

The House of Representatives to-day approved the Johnson Immigration Bill, which fixes the quotas of immigrants at two per cent., based on the census of 1890.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Apr. 11.

Japan has lodged a vigorous protest against the proposal before Congress further to restrict Japanese immigration.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Apr. 12.

The House of Representatives has approved the section of the Immigration Bill which practically bars Japanese from the United States.—Reuter's American Service.

London, Apr. 14.

The Washington correspondent of the "Morning Post," discussing the Japanese Note, says that rarely has a Great Power sent another such a stiff Note. He points out that Secretary of State Hughes sympathizes with the Japanese position and previously urged the House of Representatives to expunge the "obnoxious" provision. He declares that many Senators see the impolicy of needlessly irritating Japan and do not take Mr. Hanihara's warning lightly, but the Californian Senators are rabid on the subject and have the support of the other Pacific Coast Senators who say that there is nothing to be feared.

The correspondent states that the belief prevails that Japan will institute reprisals, which will not only disturb Japan-American commercial relations, but will have a serious bearing on the entire commercial and political relations of the Far East.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Apr. 14.

The Japanese Ambassador's Note to the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Hughes, which has been published here, embodies the methods whereby Japan is restricting emigration to the United States under the Gentlemen's Agreement respecting the issuance of passports and their close supervision. Passports are issued to those labourers, skilled or unskilled, only who "were previously domiciled in America, and their parents, their wives and their children under twenty years," and they only after production of definite proofs of identity. Passports to picture brides have not been issued since March 1, 1920. The methods are similarly being applied in the case of emigrants to Hawaii and foreign territories contiguous to the United States, with a view to preventing surreptitious entry.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Japan's Note Severely Criticized

Washington, Apr. 14.

In the course of the immigration debate in the Senate to-day Senator Lodge declared with regret that the Japanese Note was an improper one to be addressed by the representative of one great country to another friendly one. He contended that the question of immigration was the greatest of fundamental rights. He also objected to the Note because it contained a veiled threat.

Senator Borah and other Republicans and Democrats supported Senator Lodge's views.

The Senate afterwards discussed the Immigration Bill and rejected a committee amendment by 76 votes to two for ratification of continuation of the so-called Gentlemen's Agreement. The vote on the proposed Japanese exclusion amendment is postponed until to-morrow.—Reuter's American Service.

JAPAN'S RESENTMENT.

Tokio, Apr. 15.

The action of the United States Congress in regard to immigration is causing much excitement in Tokio, where the frequent newspaper extras show that every move made by Washington is being closely watched.

The Cabinet met in camera to-day to discuss the situation.

The press strongly resents the bitter talk among some sections of Americans, but declares that it does not despair of the American sense of justice. The papers express regret that the Japanese Ambassador's expression "grave consequences" has been misunderstood in Washington. They believed that it merely meant that a moral reaction against America would be created among the Japanese people, which could not be controlled by the Government.

The "*Jiji*," in a typical condemnation of the action of the American House of Representatives, declares it to be "the height of abuse and injury toward the Japanese nation," and continues: "They have disregarded all the dictates of international courtesy and morality. The Japanese nation appeals to the American people seriously to consider the situation at this critical juncture."

Later.

The attitude of Senator Lodge is creating grave uneasiness.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Japanese Ambassador's Note.

Washington, Apr. 15.

The Senate has adopted the Japanese exclusion amendment in the Immigration Bill. The Bill is practically identical with that ratified by the House of Representatives on April 12.

The Note which Mr. Hanihara, the Japanese Ambassador at Washington, sent to the Secretary of State, Mr. Hughes, accompanied by a resume of the Gentlemen's Agreement, declared that the substitution of the proposed legislation, practically debarring Japanese, would not only offend a friendly nation, but would also seem to involve the good faith and honour of the Japanese Government. In conclusion, Mr. Hanihara said: "Relying on the confidence you have been good enough to show me always, I have stated, or rather repeated, all this to you very candidly and in a most friendly spirit, for I realize, as I believe you do, the grave consequences which the enactment of the Bill would bring upon the otherwise happy and mutually advantageous relations of our two countries."

Before the publication of Mr. Hanihara's note, many Senators favoured the amendment intended to have regard for the sensibilities of Japan by continuing the Gentlemen's Agreement, but now Senators express the strongest resentment at what is construed as an effort on the part of another nation to influence Congress by an implied suggestion of retaliation.

It is understood that the Administration regards the exclusion of the Japanese as a minor detail of the larger policy of maintaining on the Pacific the understanding reached at the Conference on the limitation of naval armaments.

Authoritative circles believe that the President may vote the Immigration Bill on account of its Japanese feature, but, in view of the bitter feeling aroused by the "veiled threat" of the Japanese Note, his veto appears likely to be over-ridden by Congress.—Reuter's American Service.

Press Condemnation.

New York, Apr. 15.

The morning newspapers, commenting on restriction of Japanese immigration in to the United States, condemn the action of Congress.

The "New York Times" declares that it is a wholly uncalled for affront to the Japanese people. The "New York World" says that the measure is offensive, unnecessary, brutal and dangerous, and does not represent the real will of the American people. The country will expect the President to save it, by his veto, from the consequences of this folly.

The "New York Herald" accuses the House of Representatives of imperilling friendly relations with Japan. The Senators, owing to their wretched exhibition of jingoism, are petulantly jeopardizing the work of the Washington Conference.—Reuter.

Tokio, Apr. 15.

"Though we have not yet given up hope that our sacrifices and efforts to develop friendship with America will be successful, we have cause for grave anxiety," said Baron Matsui, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this afternoon to an American correspondent in connexion with the action of Congress with regard to immigration in the course of a statement in which he made a strong appeal against the final passage of the exclusion provision. "It seems to us that we are appealing only against an action that can wound us to some extent and bring little satisfaction to you."

CASE FOR MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

The Foreign Minister suggested that the operation of quotas by America, as well as the Gentlemen's Agreement by Japan, would provide the most effective control of emigration. Japan, on her part, was ready to give all the assistance possible to make control effective. Such a method would maintain the mutual confidence, respect and good-will, which Japan, the nation and the Government, were most anxious to retain and promote. He drew attention to the close and interlocking mutual interest of the two countries in trade and for the preservation of the stability and security of the Pacific nations.

Describing America as "in the enviable position of a Power privileged to take arbitrary action or to behave with fine magnanimity, setting an example to other nations or inducing resentment," Baron Matsui urged that nothing should be done to weaken the spirit of friendship and esteem in which Japan had long regarded her.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Canada's Foual Right to Exclude

Ottawa, Apr. 16.

In the course of the budget debate in the Dominion House of Commons to-day, Mr. Neill (Independent), representing British Columbia, referring to the question of oriental immigration, regretted that the restrictions with regard to Chinese had not been extended to the Japanese. He said that he was sick of hearing about the "grave international complications" which Japan threatened whenever restriction was mooted. He believed that Japan should recognise Canada's right to restrict the influx of a people whose standard of living was lower than that of Canadians.—Reuter's American Service.

FIRE-BALL OVER SAGE'S BIRTHPLACE

Mysterious Phenomenon in Confucius's Country

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinan, Sung., Apr. 11.

Reports of a mysterious fire-ball have been repeatedly appearing in the local newspapers, which say that it is to be seen night after night in the district of Chu-Fu, the birthplace of Confucius.

The ball is of pure white light, from which rays shoot upwards. It is not stationary but rises and falls and moves rapidly from place to place. It goes so fast that watchers have not been able to come up with it (!). This remarkable phenomenon is declared not to be a will-o'-the-wisp, and the Chinese are quite puzzled to account for it.

MERCHANT CAPTURED BY BANDITS.

Local robbers are making their their presence felt. A well-to-do merchant of Tsingchowfu, whose place of business is near the railway station there, was carried off recently by a small band of robbers. They also captured the policeman who stood on guard at the merchant's door, but later on they released him and sent him back with a demand for a large ransom.

The merchant's family have not heard anything from the captive himself, and are at a loss to know where his hiding-place may be.

"JOINING MARSHAL CHANG TSO-LIN'S ARMY"

North Kiangsu Bandits' Story Told to Captives Just Released

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingkiangpu, Ku., Apr. 11.

A missionary, who has just returned by motor-cycle from the North country, reports that all of the bandits in that section have just left, releasing all of their captives and saying they were going north to join Marshal Chang Tso-lin. That the captives have been all released, without ransom being paid, is a certainty and many of them report that the bandits told them, should they not get jobs with Chang's Army that they would be back and capture them again.

If it is true that these men are trying to join Chang it would be most interesting to find what route they take to reach him, and who is supplying the funds. Travel overland all of that distance would be impossible, or certainly impracticable, so the only other routes are by water, viâ Haichow, or rail viâ Hsuchowfu. Why are these routes safe for large bands of robbers, going to join potential enemies of this section of the country!

HOKKAIDO'S HERMIT SCHOOLMASTER

Ex-Samurai Heaping Up Merit by Educating Woodland Beggar Colony

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Apr. 10.

His stock in trade a few battered books and some old newspapers; his pupils the children of beggars; and his remuneration a proportion of what his mendicant-students get from generous-hearted citizens, Shunsai Anzai, a former samurai, conducts what is perhaps the strangest school in the world. There is no classroom; there are no forms, desks or seats. The unique educational institution is located in the midst of a dense forest in the Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, a forest that is carefully avoided by the inhabitants of the island because of its being also the abode of fierce bears.

In the days when Japan was still encased like an oyster in its shell, Anzai sported two swords and a top-knot. With the abolition of feudalism and the armies and retinues of feudal days, this samurai who still professes the greatest contempt for the rifle and machine gun on the ground that these methods of warfare are ungallant and cowardly, turned his back on a warrior's life and decided to devote his days to the education of the most neglected in the land.

For some time he laboured in the slums of Tokio, but social relief bureaux and municipal aid societies invaded his domains. He then trekked northwards and when he came to the Hokkaido forests and saw its beggar denizens, he decided that he would establish himself here as the schoolmaster of this queer colony.

From time to time Shunsai Anzai makes trips to the nearest village, principally to lay hold of discarded newspapers and books. He has 34 pupils. Those villagers who have paid the forest beggar colony a visit say that the children are being well instructed by the ex-warrior Anzai.

On the evening of the April 6, a robbery was committed in Tsinan. Between 9 and 10 o'clock three men entered a coalyard some distance outside the East Suburb gate. They carried revolvers and held up the staff, demanding dollars from the frightened inmates. The three men were dressed like students, and they proceeded to seach the office. They were able to find over $70 in silver and coppers, and made off before any alarm could be raised.

PIRATES' HIDEOUS CRIMES

Slaughtered to a Man: Two Ships' Crews: Exploits of a Former College Graduate

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Apr. 8.

The public has been following with considerable interest the trial of one Ezure, a notorious Japanese pirate, and his accomplices, which has just been concluded in the Tokio courts. All the accused have been found guilty, but sentences have not been pronounced as yet. The trial which concluded yesterday drops the curtain on one of the most sensational human tragedies that has occurred for many years in Japan.

The first scene takes us back to 1921 when Ezure, a college graduate, believing that vast fortunes were to be reaped from the fisheries off the Siberian Pacific coast—especially with the Japanese fishing fleets operating under the protection of the guns of the Japanese Navy—abruptly terminated the prosaic career of clerk in a banking house, gathered about him a band of young men thirsting for adventure and, of course, for easily-made fortunes, and left *en route* to the fishing banks. Their vessel, however, was wrecked in the Inland Sea and the band was forced to return impoverished.

Ezure, however, managed to obtain from a Yokohama merchant a loan of Y. 20,000, saying that now his ambition had turned from reaping a fortune in fish to securing a bigger fortune in gathering gold dust from the rivers of the Siberian littoral. The merchant believed that there was more than a gambler's chance in the venture, so gave Ezure the money. A 2,000-ton ship, the Taikoo Maru, was chartered and the vessel sailed from Shibaura, Tokio, on September 17, 1921. Ezure, prior to sailing, bought a large amount of arms and food, the tale revealed in court by some of his subordinates who turned King's evidence, stating that 22 rifles, 67 Japanese swords, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, 250 bags of rice, 370 bags of wheat, with ample supplies of drinking water were included. The crew of 37 whom Ezure gathered about him were ex-service men who swore solemn oaths to obey him unquestioningly.

DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES.

One of the first "exploits" of Ezure and his accomplices was to get alongside of a Russian fishing smack, the Anna, pour a rain of lead into the vessels rigging and command it to heave to. Ezure and his men then boarded the vessel, seized every thing on board and dealt death to everyone on the ship. The next boat to fall foul of the pirates was the Wesker, a 100-ton vessel, manned by 24 Russians and Chinese. This ship too, being unarmed, fell an easy prey to Ezure who slaughtered its entire crew, the wholesale murders being perpetrated, perhaps, because of the good old piratical belief that dead men tell no tales. In court, however, Ezure stated that he was furious at the massacre of Japanese by Russian partisans at Nikolaievsk and had determined to deal out vengeance himself.

The Taikoo Maru returned to Japan laden with loot which was disposed of at an enormous profit, and Ezure and his companions decided to take a holiday before embarking on further piratical exploits. The prickings of remorse and the inevitable quarrels that follow the division of stolen loot proved the undoing of the marauders and one of them, conscience-smitten, revealed the whole sordid tale to the police.

Ezure at this time was at a "spa" in the country, enjoying the waters with his fancy, when the police pounced on him. That was in 1921. The case has just ended. With all the allowance one may make for the dislocation in State business caused by the earthquake, the Ezure case is a further illustration of how slowly Japan's judicial machinery works.

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CARGO CONGESTION AT TSINGTAO

Rlwy.'s Terminal Depot Small: Co-ordination Between Harbour and Rlwy.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Apr. 11.

In connexion with the question of loading and unloading facilities now under discussion between local foreign business men and the new Administration, a number of merchants favour a scheme to let the Kiao-Tsi Railway control the business of the Harbour Department in view of the fact that Tsingtao is the railway's terminal port. It is felt that unless there is co-ordination between the Harbour Department and the railway, congestions of cargo could never be satisfactorily eliminated.

The well-known principle is affirmed that the volume of traffic which a line would carry cannot exceed the capacity of the terminal, as has been proved by the American practice of railway control of terminal facilities. During the progress of the war, when the railways did not control terminal facilities, abnormal congestions occurred, causing huge shipments to be held back. It is admitted that those were abnormal times, but even in the ordinary course of commerce, congestions are liable to occur where there is not some co-ordination between harbour departments and the railways carrying merchandise to seaports for shipment abroad.

The example is cited of the chaos which resulted under the former Harbour Administration.

HUGE POTENTIAL COAL EXPORT.

The amount of merchandize now exported from this port is very great, and in the years to come will increase on a huge scale, especially in the case of coal. Merchants interested in the coal business affirm that there is no doubt the annual tonnage of coal transportation from the mines at Tzuchuan, Poshan, Takunlun and elsewhere will amount to at least 2,500,000 tons by the year 1930, and that fully one-half will be exported. The demand abroad for Chinese coal is so great that it is felt the foregoing estimated export tonnage is not an exaggerated one.

In order to handle this huge tonnage, it would be necessary to provide a yard which must be sufficient to store at least the amount of coal for one month, so as to be able to handle the fluctuations which occur from time to time in both water and rail transportations. It would be necessary to have a sufficient sea frontage along this yard for the mooring of coal-carriers, but in the interval an efficient system of lighterage should be inaugurated, enabling lighters to approach the coal piles on land.

Local business men are of opinion that the volume of traffic carried by any railway is more or less governed by the capacity of terminal facilities. Unless the terminal facilities are offered the required space it would be detrimental to the progress of the Kiao-tsi Railway. It is, therefore, thought highly essential that there should be a closer co-operation between the Wharf Administration and the railway. It is well known to business men here that the railway had tried on numerous occasions to arrive at an understanding with the Wharf Administration with a view of devising ways and means of a satisfactory transhipment of goods between land and water for the mutual benefit of the authorities and the business public.

The management of the Wharf business should in the opinion of several prominent business men, should be in the hands of the Railway Administration, while the Municipal Administration should be at liberty to make any suggestions tending to the improvement of the whole concern, seeing to it that the entire work is carried out satisfactorily. In compensation for the loss of revenue as a result of the transfer of the management of harbour facilities from the Harbour Department to the Kiao-tsi Railway, the latter should pay certain sums regularly to the Municipal Administration. All surpluses should be devoted to improvements in harbour facilities.

WORLD'S DIRTIEST VILLAGE

Busy Tibetan Trade Mart: The Great Unwashed

Yatung (Tibet).

Phari-jong, where the Mount Everest Expedition proposes to spend several weeks, is the filthiest village in the world, (writes the correspondent of the "Daily Mail.")

Situated on a small knoll in the centre of the plain from which it takes its name and a few miles from the foot of Mt. Chomolhari, one of the most magnificent mountains in Tibet, Phari consists of a fortress, round which are huddled about 200 hovels in which are people live.

When the village was first built, at least 500 years ago, the houses were above ground level, but nowadays, owing to the prevalent practice of the inhabitants of using the front of their houses as a rubbish heap, the buildings are buried in mounds of filth, through which are cut passage ways to the road. The road level is nowadays in many places far above the roofs of the houses lining it.

The people never wash.

During the visit of the Mount Everest Expedition, who contemplate a reconnaissance of Mt. Chomolhari, the members will not have to live in native quarters, as there is an excellent bungalow, maintained by the Government of India, for use by its officials stationed in Tibet. There is also a post and telegraph office, probably the highest in the world. From this news of the expedition will be sent out to the world.

Phari is one of the principal trademarts of Tibet, being situated at the head of the Chumbi Valley, down which travels the bulk of the Tibetan export trade, including the largest product of the country, wool.

The conditions under which the inhabitants live are very hard. No crops will ripen owing to the shortness of the summer and also to the altitude. Because of the scarcity of fuel, most food is eaten raw. Dried mutton and barley flour, which is imported from Chumbi, form the principal articles of diet, washed down with the inevitable butter tea.

In winter the people combat the intense cold—the thermometer sometimes drops to 20deg. F.—by donning more fur-lined clothing.

"CONFISCATED" PROPERTY OF MR. ELLY WIDLER

Gen. Yang Sen's Perquisites

We are informed that Mr. Elly Widler, who was for more than six months a captive in the hands of the Chinese Szechuan Second Army, by instructions from Gen. Yang Sen, has entered a strong protest to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in Chungking regarding the seizure of his private effects at the time of his arrest. In the matter of the general seizure of money, commercial goods, furniture, etc., Mr. Widler is entering a claim against the Peking Government, but with reference to the "confiscation" of his private effects, such as three sporting rifles and two pistols, used by him on hunting trips in the country, personal effects and clothing, the annexation by Gen. Yang Sen, for his own personal use, of jewellery, etc., and the retention of passports and other documents, Mr. Widler is treating as a personal claim against Gen. Yang Sen, in whose possession, he alleges, this property is held.

The "Japan Chronicle" states that one foreign press correspondent left by the American destroyer proceeding to the Kuriles with supplies for the American round-the-world fliers. He is Mr. Dinton Wells, who will represent Kokousai, the Associated Press and through Kokusai Reuter.

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SHANGHAI NEWS

FLAG OF ERMANNO CARLOTTO

Presentation by Italian Women of Shanghai to New Station Gunboat

An occasion of great significance to the Italian community of Shanghai and their guests was the presentation on Sunday afternoon of the Italian colours to the gunboat Ermanno Carlotto of the Royal Navy, commanded by Commander Zappi. In accordance with immemorial custom, since the days when ladies tied their favours to their knights' helmets and sent them to the tournament the women of Italy have presented a flag to every naval ship. The Carlotto, which was built by the Old Dock Company of Shanghai, though hardly two years in service has travelled many miles on the Yangtze. If has of course never been in action. This flag is the gift of the ladies of the Shanghai Italian community and was presented on their behalf by Mme. de'Rossi, the wife of the Italian Consul-General.

From three o'clock on, gaily decked launches plied between the French Bund and the I.R.N. Carlotto and I.R.N. Sebastiano Caboto which were lashed together with a connecting gangway in order to accommodate the large number of guests present. The I.R.N. Calabria which left for Italy on Sunday morning was anchored near by, her crew standing to attention and saluting while the flag was run up. I.R.N. Libia is now on her way to Shanghai to replace the Calabria.

The scene of the presentation was extremely picturesque, the dress naval uniforms, heavily gold braided, with the effective flag of Savoy blue, over the shoulder, contrasting with the Italian military uniforms, and the full regalia of the diplomatic representatives present. The forward deck was decorated with palms and potted plants. After the bugles had called those present to attention Mme. de' Rossi took the flag from its handsome Chinese chest and with a short speech of presentation placed it in commander Zappi's hands. Then, while the flag was held at its four corners by Mme. de' Rossi, Commander Zappi, Miss Flora Nocera and Miss Itala Chieri, Farther Gharzi, an Italian Padre with the French Mission at Siccawei, Observatory, read the service of dedication, sprinkling the flag with holy water at the conclusion. Commander Zappi then took the flag and with his own hands ran it up to the mast-head, after which the buglers sounded the call to the colours, the salute to the King was given, and the national anthem played by the band.

Commander Zappi then made a very eloquent speech, thanking the Italian ladies of Shanghai for their gift and recognizing his responsibility as captain for seeing that at all times the safety and honour of the Italian ladies and Italian interests generally were protected. The object of the ship was purely a peaceful one, he said to assure the safety of the property and commerce of her Nationals; Italy was emerging from the effects of the war and her glory increasing under the new *régime*. In conclusion Commander Zappi addressed the officers and crew, reminding them of the responsibilities conferred upon them by the presentation of this flag.

Comm. Cerruti, Minister to China, next spoke, saying that this was the first occasion that such a flag had been given to a ship in China and the importance of the event should be realized. He proposed sending cables to His Majesty, to the Premier Signor Mussolini, and to First Admiral Thaon de Revel announcing the hoisting of the flag. Commander Caccia, of the Calabria which is returning to Italy, brought the congratulations from the older vessel to the younger, and presented its best wishes in departure. Consul-General de' Rossi concluded the speeches with some humorous references this martial token being presented by the fairer sex of the Italian community and expressed his felicitations upon the significant occasion.

A large number were present at the ceremony, including Mme. Cerruti, from Peking, Commander Jaihino of the Sabastiano Caboto, and Commander Viganoni, formerly of the gunboat Caboto, now returning home. Others of the Italian community present were Chev. E. Denegri, Mr. A. P. Bena, delagate of the Italian Naval League, and Mrs. Bena, Chev. Badoni, Mr. V. Chieri of the Postal Supply Dept., and Mrs. Chieri, Mr. P. de Grisogano of the Lloyd Triestino Dr. O. Fischer, Mr. de Luca of the Statistical Dept. of the Customs, Mr. G Biondell, Vice-Consul, Capt. R. Ferrajolo, Assessor of the Mixed Court, Messrs. Gironi, Armidani and Fumagalli. A delightful reception followed the ceremony, at which refreshments were served by Bianchi, and the ladies were presented with bouquets of carnations tied up with the gunboat's ribbons to which were attached little silver boxes bearing the Carlotto's picture and the date.

OBITUARY

Mr. E. G. Hillier. C. M. G.

Peking, Apr. 12.

Mr. E. G. Hillier, Agent of The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation in Peking, died to-day of bronchial pneumonia.

The death of Mr. Hillier has created a gap in the life of Peking such as had hitherto not been seen.

Very great regret and sympathy is expressed by Chinese and foreigners throughout North China. Chinese and foreign official circles feel the loss of an able counsellor whose opinion on all matters relating to finance was invariably sought and always received the closest attention, while his personal friends deplore the passing of a man of the highest British type.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

On Saturday morning the flags on the building of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank were half-masted out of respect to the late Mr. Hillier and very general regret was expressed in the community that so distinguished a man should have passed away. He was very well known in Shanghai, having been a resident here for several years and a great many friends of his are left in the Settlement to mourn his loss.

Mr. Hillier was a son of Mr. C. B. Hillier, at one time H. M. Consul to Siam and he was born in 1857. He was educated, and Blundell's School, Tiverton, and then was at Trinity College, Cambridge. There appears to be some uncertainty regarding his early career in the Far East. A friend of his says that he came out as a secretary of the British North Borneo Chartered Company, and the reason for his leaving that service and coming to China is not quite apparent. Arriving in Shanghai he was originally in the service of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., being employed in the shipping office under Mr. Brodie Clarke. He joined the service of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank in April, 1883. He was stationed in Shanghai and the present generation of oarsmen will learn with interest that in the early eighties he was a keen rowing man. He was married in 1885 or 1880 to a sister of Lady Pearce, another sister having married Mr. "Bob" Little.

In 1891 Mr. Hillier became manager of the Peking branch of Wayfoong and it is from this time that his great distinction in the affairs of China starts. He may be described better as a politico-financier than a banker for his work has always been in the realm of Government finance. He took a leading part in the negotiations for the Anglo-German loan to China of £16,000,000 in 1896, and the strain of these negotiations seriously affected his eye-sight which was congenitally weak. It became worse as time wore on and he ultimately was totally blind. This, however, did not hinder his work and in spite of it he continued to act for British financial interests in China as represented by the Hongkong Bank in the in the most brilliant manner. He was the British delegate on the Commissioner of Bankers for the Chinese Indemnity in 1902 and may be described as being the most valuable member of that body. From that time until his death he was continually engaged in the work of financial negotiations between the Bank and the Chinese government, all of which he performed with marked ability.

BLINDNESS NO HINDRANCE.

The loss of his eyesight seems to have brought out in marked measure the wonderful genius of the man. At all times he had an extraordinary memery and could quote dates of business letters 10 or 20 years back. He typed all his business correspondence himself and to the very end was an enthusiastic bridge player. He was able to do this by means of Braille cards; he was told what was in "dummy's" hand, and each player named his card as he played. More amazing than this, however, was the fact that notwithstanding his blindess he kept up cross-country riding. He had always been an enthusiastic horseman and after the loss of his eyesight was able to get about the country by having a mafoo riding in touch with him. The same mafoo used to attend with him at the training for the Peking race meetings and tell him in Chinese what was going on and what times were being done and Mr. Hillier's konwledge of what the different ponies could do was quite striking. Mention of Chinese recalls the fact that Mr. Hillier was a very great Sinologue and his knowledge of the language and people undoubtedly assured that success which he achieved in his particular realm of finance. He was also a very keen musician. Mr. Hillier's work on behalf of British interests received recognition in 1904 when the C.M.G. was conferred uopn him.

Mr. Hillier was twice married, his first wife having died several years ago. He is survived by his second wife, who is a daughter of the late Dr. Timothy Richard. His eldest son was killed during the war while his other son, who paid a visit to China last year, is at Cambridge. One of his daughters, who married Capt. Booker, is now in London, while another married Mr. Charles Todd and resides in Tientsin.

The Funeral

Peking, Apr. 13.

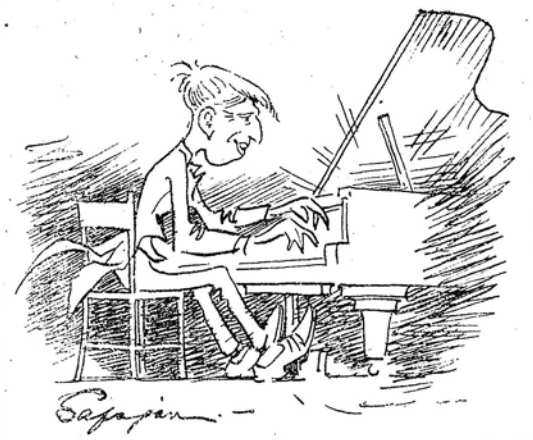
The funeral of Mr. E. G. Hillier took place at 12.30 to-day and was attended by a representative of the President, all the Chinese Ministers, various organizations, banks and commercial institutions, and numerous personal Chinese friends.

Mrs. Hillier, Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Mr. R. C. Allen were the chief mourners and Messrs. D. A. Johnston and A. Davidson the ushers.

Among the foreigners present were representatives of all the Legations, Sir Francis and Lady Aglen, Sir Ernest Wilton, Mr. H. P. Destalan and representatives of all classes of the community. There were many beautiful wreaths.

The Rev. Father Mullins said the Requiem Mass at St. Michel's Church and Father O'Gorman conducted the service at the graveside at Peitang Cemetery.

The pall-bearers were M. Oudendijk (Netherlands Minister and Dean of the Diplomatic Body), Sir Ronald Macleay (British Minister) and M. de Fleuriau (French Minister), Sir Francis Aglen (Inspector-General of the Customs), Sir Ernest Wilton (Inspector-General of the Salt Gabelle) and M. Picard Destalan (Co-Director of Posts), and representatives of various banking groups — M. Baylin (French), Mr. C. R. Bennet (American), M. Raindre (Russian) and M. Takeuchi (Japanese).



A MAKER OF MUSIC
Mieczyslaw Munz in Melodious Mood

MAJOR BUCK'S FUNERAL

The funeral of Major Morton W. Buck, R.E. (T.), a Lieutenant in the Maritime Co., S.V.C., took place at Bubbling Well Cemetery last Friday afternoon, where a large gathering of friends, civilians and volunteers, assembled to pay their last respects to the deceased officer. The funeral service was read in the Chapel by the Very Rev. C. J. F. Symons, as were the last rites at the graveside. The Masonic (Scottish Rite) Ritual here was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Darroch. Military honours were accorded by members of the Maritime Co., three volleys being fired as a last salute, which was followed by the "Last Post." As it was the wish of the deceased that he be carried to the grave by sappers, the bearers of the coffin were members of the Engineer branch of the Volunteers Commanded by Lt.-Col. M. H. Logan. Volunteer pall-bearers were Capt. Hay, Lieuts. Spence, Baker, Poate, Divers, Wood and Tilley.

The funeral cortege formed at Carter Road, the coffin being placed upon a gun carriage from the Field Artillery, while nearly the full strength of the Maritime Co., acted as escort, joined by a detail from every other company, consisting of an N.C.O. and eight men. In addition most of the commissioned officers in church parade order fell in, the Band preceding the party. On approaching the gate of the cemetery, the band broke into the funeral march and after the military section had passed the Masonic orders (District Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonary in North China, Lodge St. Andrew in the Far East, 493. S.C. and Lodge Saltoun 936 S.C.) fell in behind, followed by friends.

M. MUNZ'S CHOPIN RECITAL

The programme chosen by M. Munz for Chopin recital on Saturday evening was of a decidedly original character. Excepting the A flat major Polonaise none of the usual "big" works by Chopin appeared, neither the Sonata nor any of the Scherzos. The result would have been charming in a chamber music concert but was a trifle slender in a big hall. The *pièce de résistance* was the Twenty-four Preludes, which M. Munz played with brilliant execution and lavish attention to detail. His fingering is extraordinary and the clearness of his playing we have never heard surpassed. No matter how rapid and complicated the passage not a note is lost; the inside parts are as distinct as the outside. On the other hand, M. Munz errs occasionally through excessive scholarliness. He appears so anxious to give each note and phrase its exact value and importance, that feeling is sometimes lost in intellect. Chopin was one of the most careful composers that ever lived and these players make a mistake who treat him too emotionally. But the great quality in his music is colour and suggestiveness, and these are apt to be lost if one treats him too analytically. In one other point one would venture to differ from M. Munz and that is that he plays too quickly. Nothing certainly is blurred, but the listener has a sensation of being hurried. Opinions will differ as to whether the Preludes were meant to be taken right through at one draught. They do not suggest the homogeneous character of, say, the "Papillons" or "Kinder Scenen" and the name they bear would indicate that they are meant to lead up to something else. However, M. Munz certainly acted up to his belief that they are meant to go together very skilfully. He played the three Mazurkas charmingly, full of light and delight. But really the best part of the programme was the three concluding encores. We have no idea what they were. If, as some one suggested, they were his own composition, he is destined to make a name for himself as a composer. They were full of melody and cunning workmanship and in playing them, M. Munz forgot to be scholarly and, without extravagance played with abandon and expressiveness.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Arrival of Famous Indian Philosopher and Poet in Shanghai

Sir Rabindranath Tagore, the noted Indian philosopher and poet, arrived in Shanghai from Hongkong on Saturday afternoon on the str. Atsuta, and remained here a few days before continuing his journey to Peking where is to deliver a series of lectures on philosophy.

Sir Rabindranath was met in Shanghai by Mr. Tse Mou-hsu, of the Peking Lecture Bureau, who came to the Settlement to greet China's noted guest and to conduct him to Peking. It is to be hoped that he will be induced to deliver a lecture here either before or after his trip to the capital, where he is to appear in public on six occasions. Foreigners and educated Chinese there are proposing to portray his play "Chitra" in the Peking Union Medical Auditorium if that hall may be obtained.

The poet, who is now 63 years old, refused to see any but special callers at his quarters in the Burlington Hotel, as the voyage proved quite a strain. He is a prolific writer and has published not less than 30 poetical works including novels, short stories, essays, sermons and dramas. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Not only has he written in the Bengali dialect but he has also himself translated many of his works into English, in addition to which scholars have further translated them into other languages, several into Chinese, which have been greatly appreciated by scholars in this country.

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THE NEW AMERICAN JUDGE

Warmly Welcomed by Bar Association on First Appearance in Court

In the presence of a large gathering which included the entire membership of the American Bar Association, Mr. Edwin S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, Mr. J. P. Davis, Executive Consul, Court officials and numerous friends, Judge Milton Dwight Purdy formally assumed office at the American Court last Friday.

Mr. Sterling Fessenden, as President of the Far Eastern American Bar Association, and also as one of the senior members of the Bar, extended to the new Judge the heartiest welcome of the Bar and their congratulations to him on taking his seat for the first time on the bench of that Court. Some of those present had practised there for many years and they all realized the existence of difficulties surrounding the administration of the law in an extraterritorial country—difficulties which were not encountered at home. Nevertheless he felt sure, and he could assure his Honour to that effect, that he would find in the Bar a hearty spirit of co-operation and that its members would loyally uphold the Court and its Judge.

DIFFERENCES IN LEGAL RANKS.

There was one thing he would like to refer to. There had been for some time past more or less friction within the Bar itself, but he felt, and he was sure all the other members of the Bar felt, that the occasion of his Honour taking his seat upon the Bench of the Court was an opportune time for these difficulties to be forgotten and for the Bar to go on once more as a united and friendly Bar, loyal to the Court, loyal to its traditions and with a desire to uphold and maintain in the highest degree possible the traditions of their country which they all prized so highly.

JUDGE PURDY'S REPLY.

Judge Purdy, responding, voiced the pleasure he felt in listening to the kindly expressions of esteem and loyalty which had been so succinctly expressed by Mr. Fessenden. He wanted to thank the Bar here, from the bottom of his heart for their expressions of cordiality and hearty accord, and he wanted to assure them at the same time that it would be his constant aim and endeavour to maintain the present high standard of the Court and the excellent reputation that it had attained under his predecessor Judge Lobingier and all his predecessors in office. He thought it might be timely to state at that time that it had been his experience, during the 30 odd years that he had been at the Bar, that in those jurisdictions where there had been hearty co-operation and kindly sympathy between the members of the Bar and the Court they achieved the best results and the highest order of justice administered.

PROBLEMS TO SOLVE.

He invited all the members of the Bar to meet him, to come to his chambers at any time and discuss matters of importance to the administration of the law in this jurisdiction. It would always be a pleasure for him to meet and see them and he hoped very soon to have an opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of every one of them. They had, as Mr. Fessenden had well said, many intricate, difficult and perplexing problems to solve and he would have to rely upon each and all of them to help him so that the Court would have a standing in China second to none, as it had had in the past.

Mr. Leonard G. Husar, District Attorney, on behalf of the officials of the Court extended a welcome to the Judge and assured him of their earnest co-operation.

In reply Judge Purdy said he had seen evidence of that in the few days he had been here. In fact he had already thought many times how fortunate had been the U. S. Government in getting men of such excellent quality and such ability as the officials of that Court.

The increasing number of mammoth office buildings in Shanghai suggests a simple means of settling the parking question.

HOMING PIGEONS SLAUGHTERED

Sportsmen Who Shoot at Carriers: Valuable Birds Destroyed

Unbeknown to a good many, there are a few keen pigeon fanciers in the Settlement and it is understood they are making inquiries to trace the so-called sportsmen who during the past few weeks are credited with having shot a number of valuable homing pigeons.

Recently six birds were released 60 miles up-country. Four returned well under two hours, one arrived at the loft four hours later in a very exhausted condition and upon examination was found to have a gun-shot wound through both legs, and in fairness to the bird it had to be destroyed. The fate of the other bird is unknown, but seeing that all the birds had previously flown over the same ground several times and that the missing bird had also made a flight of 120 miles, the owner has written it down—lost—"Killed by sportsmen!"

A homing pigeon if attacked by hawks will seek safety by going to ground, which is very often the reason for a bird being a day late. Unfortunately going to ground is no protection against a shot-gun, and the poor pigeon who perhaps is on the last few miles of a hundred-mile flight is greeted with a charge of No. 6.

No true sportsman would knowingly shoot a homing pigeon, and any man who cannot distinguish between a homing pigeon and a dove must be classed as a pot-filler.

ROTARY CLUB TIFFIN

At the weekly tiffin of the Shanghai Rotary Club, held on the 9th instant at the Astor House Hotel, Mr. Percy Fowler, managing director of Messrs. Brunner Mond (China) & Co., Ld., spoke of his recollections of European and American Rotary Clubs. Mr. T. C. Britton, the new President, presided.

The chairmen of the various standing committees of the club for the ensuing year were appointed by the board of directors:—

Education, Mr. Marshall Dunn; Fellowship, Mr. H. A. Wiley; Boys' Work, Mr. H. C Norman; Publicity, Mr. Jabin Hsu; Business Ethics, Mr. Jack O. Shungle; Public Affairs, Mr. E. C. Stooker; Music, Mr. Geo. J. McCarthy; Publication, Mr. W. E. Souter; Programme, Mr. H. Holgate; by-laws, Mr. James B. Davies; Entertainment, Mr. J. Eichwald; and Bursury, Mr. W. J. Hawkings. Mr. F. J. Raven, of the Raven Trust Co., said farewell to the club. He is leaving for the United States and Europe and expects to return to Shanghai in September.

PILGRIM SHIP'S GALLANT CAPTAIN

Frangestan's Passengers Now in Mecca

Further details of the burning of the pilgrim ship Frangestan have reached the local office of Messrs. H. M. H. Nemazee & Co.

The greatest praise, we are informed, is due to the Captain of the steamer, who by his heroic conduct, infused among his officers such an example of attention to duty while his vessel was in greatest peril, that the enormous task of shifting, apart from the European first-class passengers, 1,200 pilgrims with all their baggage was satisfactorily accomplished.

All the pilgrims have reached Jeddah safely, where they will be specially entertained and sent on to Mecca, free.

The King of the Hejaz generously offered to Mr. H. M. H. Nemazee, owner of the Frangestan, to bear all the expenses for transporting these pilgrims to Mecca, but Mr. Nemazee has declined, and has asked and been granted the privilege of bearing this expense himself.

WEDDING

Huang-How

At Union Church on the 9th instant, the Rev. A. N. Rowland officiating, Miss Mo Li-how, a graduate of McTyeire School and a student of the Boston Conservatory, became the bride of Mr. Hsu Liang-huang, Ph. D., manager of the Ho Hong Bong Bank, Ld., of Hongkong, a graduate of Princeton and Columbia Universities.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Bang How, wore white silver laie, over white satin, the train embroidered in pearls in true lovers' knots. The veil was of tulle, caught with a wrath of orange blossoms and the bouquet was white roses and maiden hair ferns. Miss Loo Funhow, sister of the bride, acted as maid of honour, wearing saxe blue crêpe satin and carrying pink carnations. Miss Rene Chur was the flower girl, Master Mark Wei, page, and Master Mossy Lai carried the train.

The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. C. P. Ling as best man. After a reception and dinner at the Great Eastern Hotel, Mr. and Mrs. Huang left for Hongkong.

FIRE IN SHIP'S HOLD

Outbreak in P. & O. S. Mirzapore: Shanghai Cargo Undamaged

At about 7.30 on Thursday morning fire broke out in the No. 3 hold of the P. & O. str. Mirzapore, lying at the Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Company's Pootung Wharf. A call to Central Fire station was promptly answered, Chief Officer Pett and Mr. Dyson going out with a squad of men on the Municipal fire float, and were at work on the ship for the greater part of the day. The outbreak was confined to this hold and while little of the blaze was visible, there was a dense discharge of smoke and several of the Chinese firemen were overcome by the fumes. They were attended to by Dr. Gauntlett and afterwards sent back to Shanghai. It was found necessary to flood the hold, and this effectually neutralized and general danger to the vessel, though some hours passed before the outbreak was completely under control. Late in the afternoon, pumps were at work clearing the hold.

No. 3 hold was loaded with some 3,500 bales of cotton, all for Japan. No damage was done to Shanghai cargo.

The Diplomatic Body's Note last week concerning the status of the Mixed Court which referred to extensions of the Settlement boundary was sure to provoke the Chinese press and local Chinese organizations. We read that there has been a steady stream of protests by Chapei organizations to Nanking against any enlargement of the Settlement. The idea of foreign representation on municipal councils in adjoining Chinese territory appears still more obnoxious.

LUNCHEON TO MR. F. J. RAVEN

Tribute to a Successful Business Man by American Community

A jovial party of Americans gathered at the Astor House at tiffin last Friday for the purpose of bidding farewell to Mr. Frank Raven, a director of the American-Oriental Banking Corporation, who left Shanghai later in the day for Home leave. Some 70 persons were in attendance. Major S. A. Ransom presided, supported by Judge Milton Purdy, Mr. Edwin Cunningham, American Consul-General, Mr. G. Seitz and others.

Major Ransom, who presided, characterised Mr. Raven as one of those rare characters whose energies compel success in practically every venture in which they embark. He prefaced his remarks with a reference to Judge Purdy, to whom he offered a warm welcome on behalf of the assembly and the community in general in Shanghai.

Turning to the guest of honour, Major Ransom sketched his career since he started in China twenty years ago. Educated as a civil engineer, Mr. Raven came out to China 20 years ago to join the Shanghai Municipal Council. After a very short stay there he electrified things and threw down the gauntlet in real estate business. Mr. Raven had to go against a strong organization in this particular field. But results justified his self-confidence and he built up the China Realty Company.

A standing monument of his ability and work was a large portion of the French Settlement which was built in American style. That was due to Mr. Raven. Continuing, Major Ransom said: "Mr. Raven had ideals and probably still has (Laughter). His principal ideal was to become a figure in financial work, and to that end he retired from the China Realty Company, and organized the Raven Trust Company and a little later the American-Oriental Bank. In the early days of his residence 20 years ago he united with a good many others in the Settlement in forming the Shanghai American Company of which he became second-in-command. He commanded the unit several times.

"His field of activity extended to the American Association, of which he was a member and became vice-president.

Mr. Frank Raven, in reply, thanked Major Ransom for the kind remarks made. Major Ransom was his friend when he landed in China 20 years ago and he had valued his friendship ever since. Tracing the success of his various ventures, Mr. Raven attributed everything that had been done to the fact that his men had been handpicked. The men in charge of the Raven Trust, the American-Oriental Banking Corporation, the Asia Life Insurance Company, and the American-Asiatic Underwriters and others had all been watched for two years before being asked to join. The result was he had managed to get men of very high character: they were cogs in the one machine and had worked hand in hand with remarkable success. Development in China had been phenomenal during the past 20 years and in the next 10 years he thought it would be greater. The Bank had started in a small way and five years ago their finances could be counted in thousands. To-day they were reckoned in millions. When he reached America it was his intention to cement connexion between banks there and companies in China.

Judge Milton Purdy said he appreciated the kind sentiments of the toastmaster and those from Mr. Raven. Since he was a small boy (the speaker added) he had a great admiration for bankers. He had no doubt that when Mr. Raven came back from the United States they would learn that the national City Bank, the Riggs National Bank and other big banks in that country had become branches of the American-Oriental Bank.—(laughter).

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CORRESPONDENCE

EDUCATION FOR CHINESE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Will you allow me to thank Mr. Square through the hospitality of your columns for his pertinent remarks on the prevailing educational system among the Chinese? I receive a number of applications almost every day for positions from graduates of the numerous day and evening schools in Shanghai. Very rarely is the applicant qualified for or himself aspires to any higher or more useful position than that of a junior clerk. All the time, we have many important kinds of work to be done in the office, which require an enterprising spirit and initiative, and it is becoming ever more acute a problem with us how to find the men for the work. There must be something fundamentally wrong with the system if this is the general result, and I heartily endorse Mr. Square's view that we shall be very grateful to Mr. Lockwood and others who are interested in the educational work of the Chinese if they will engage their mind to find out where the fault lies and what can be done to remedy it.

Both Bertrand Russell and Liang Chi-chao are of the opinion that what the West can teach China is not philosophy, ethics or political wisdom, but science and technical knowledge. But the general tendency of education in this country is going in just the opposite direction. There are at least twenty students studying western philosophy, political economy and ethics of life to one who is equipping himself to earn an honest living by doing some really useful work such as road-building and so on.

I am, etc.,
K. C. K.

Shanghai, April 11, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In reply to T. Square's letter of April 10th concerning Education for the Chinese, I would like to point out that "what is called an education" by thoughtful people is not "Stringing a few English words together and acquiring the use of a steel pen." Mr. Lockwood particularly remarks on the need of primary education which probably would not include teaching English at all. As to half-baked clerks who are unwilling to do manual work, T. Square will find that species in any country. Granted we need skilled mechanics and artisans; but we need skilled mechanics who are literate, and are not forced to get all their ideas second-hand. If T. Square investigates carefully, he will find that fewer responsible men are to be fond among a definite number of illiterates than among the same number of the educated.

I am, etc.,
E. K. M.

Shanghai, Apr. 11, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I read with much interest the letter some days ago from Mr. Lockwood re education of Chinese children, also the oration from the pen of Mr. Bruce Lockhart on. . . I hardly know what today. Was it written to give his views on the educational question or was it to give his views on the "Commerce of Uplift"? Truly it is good to know that the "Commerce of Uplift" is recognized. It really is a good name, and many will be thankful to Mr. Lockhart for coining it. The business is very old too. Confucius said, "The progress of the superior man is *upwards*, the progress of the mean man is downwards." A still greater Master said, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul." So the "Commerce of Uplift" is a very apt expression.

As regards Mr. Lockwood's *versus* Mr. Lockhart's views on the educational question, I find myself somewhere between the two. To give *all* the children in the Settlement an elementary education would be ideal, but at present not practical. There are many thousands of children in Shanghai, and the buildings and the teachers necessary could not be obtained even if our Municipal Council were able to provide the money.

But I do emphatically believe that we have some responsibility in the matter. The Council now supports four schools for Chinese boys. These schools are equal to any, and far better than many schools in our Homelands, and are equipped both with apparatus and teachers in first rate style. Being at one time a teacher myself, I have often pondered over those schools. I believe in well equipped schools, I believe in advanced ducation. But I would like to ask these questions. Are *all* the scholars in the Municipal Schools for Chinese *bonâ fide* residents of the Settlement, or do many of them come from points outside municipal jurisdiction? Is it not true that a large majority of the boys in the Municipal Schools would and could get an education if these schools did not exist? Is it not true that we are educating boys who could afford to pay in full for their own education much better than the majority of foreigners here?

I believe it is the right of every Chinese child, boy or girl, to learn to read and to write, but at the same time, I believe that if the Chinese want to have a foreign education including football, tennis, etc., they should and could pay for it in most cases. Supposing the money spent on these few schools were used for elementary education, I am convinced at least twenty times as many children could receive instruction. In connexion with these elementary schools, scholarships could be given to poor but promising scholars. By elementary education, I mean reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and hygiene. China needs an intelligent working class, not a large number of half-educated boys who are looking for soft jobs with big pay, and who do not want to soil their hands.

I claim that we have responsibility towards these little children in our midst. It is the easier path to throw off responsibility, but in the market of the "Commerce of Uplift" things cost.

The Child Labour Commission is now sitting. We hope something will be done for the little toilers of China. Reform must begin somewhere. Why not commence here, and see that these children at least get half a day in schools?

Another thing has often puzzled me. Why is it that all municipal effort is directed towards the Chinese boy, and nothing done for the girl? It all amounts to this. Why does the Municipal Council recognize and assume responsibility for the well-to-do boy and nobody else? Surely the poor should come first. The rich can look after themselves whether they be foreign or Chinese.

Assuring you of my belief in the "Commerce of Uplift," and with many thanks to Mr. Bruce Lockhart for giving us the term,

I am, etc.,
Belated.

Shanghai, Apr. 11, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—A correspondent, who signs himself "Hsin Mei" in a letter printed in your issue of the 5th instant refers to the refunding of the Boxer indemnity by America for the education of Chinese students and dismisses the results achieved by the sentence—"What this has meant we all know."

Personally, I think that there is too much taken for granted in this remark as I at least cannot say what it all has meant and would therefore request "Hsin Mei" to explain himself more fully.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,
Curious.

Harbin, April 10, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—The desire on the part of the Chinese community, which I take it is the cause of starting the stone rolling, to have an additional Municipal School for Chinese in the Settlement, can only be interpreted as an unsolicited compliment to the excellent manner and efficiency in which other such already existing schools have been conducted. From my point of view as a teacher of Chinese boys during the last half-a-dozen years, this seems very natural, as most of the Chinese private schools which have sprung into existence in late years cannot claim any such proficiency.

There are certain causes of this, firstly, the ridiculously low remuneration offered for teaching, and besides the erratic payment of teachers' salaries, sometimes overdue for many months, the consequence of which is the impossibility of having efficient tutors. Secondly, the political influence under which the boys try to boss by going on strike, and the general lack of discipline when, as is the case in some schools, only 15 to 20 per cent. of the students attend class. Thirdly, the selection of absolutely unsuitable books for use, often far beyond the competency of the students to understand, or compiled by some returned student who, in spite of his "M. A.," does not know English.

Surely Chinese rate-payers, but only these, are entitled to have Municipal schools for the education of their children in the Shanghai International Settlement. If they have the desire of an education for their children on par with that given to foreign boys in the Public School, by all means let them have it, but let them also pay the same fees as the parents of foreign boys do, for they are able to do it. Let them purchase the requisite grounds, erect the necessary up-to-date buildings, provide a couple of lakhs as an endowment for scholarships and then invite the Council to take over the management of the institution. In such a case no foreign rate-payer would have cause to cry about contributing towards education of Chinese boys.

When the Chinese boys have studied under real discipline, there will then be less lack of young Chinese from the student class who are fitted to be more than office boys.

I am, etc.,
H. Kliene.

Shanghai, Apr. 15, 1924.

NATIONAL ROADS IN CHINA.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—An article under the title of "Paper Roads Movement" appeared in your yesterday's issue gave us much wonder. Probably the said writer has pitiably misunderstood why the Association is and ignored what it has been doing.

Before our explanation given below, we wish to call the strictest attention of the public especially the said writer to the fact that the chief aim of the Association is not at all to build roads itself. It is, however, to encourage, persuade and assist the officials who might utilize their soldiers and the people interested in road business, to do it actually.

Therefore, to make the actual survey of routes proposed, to introduce engineers and contractors, to answer questions on road building and maintenance, to help raising capital on behalf of road-undertakers and so forth—these are altogether within the function of the Association.

Furthermore, as the interest of roads is concerned with the whole nation, so the function of the Association is enforced throughout the whole territory and is never limited in one province nor in one district.

All understand that at present time it is utterly impossible to build roads actually without encountering unsurmountable obstacles because of prevailing evils and ignorance of common people of road interest. So the only important thing the Association does and is doing is to eradicate the evils while propagating the idea amongst all communities of necessities of roads building.

It is just the work of propagation that we have organized travelling lecture parties, shown to public the pictures and distributed to all concerned the booklets, pamphlets, etc. which would serve to stimulate their interest in road enterprises.

Fortunately our work is not in vain. These are moved by none but this Association that 25 motor-bus services started by our members have already operated, that roads of 30,000 *li* accomplished, that 21 branches established, that 33 branches organized and that roads built by soldiers in different localities covered 13 provinces. All these that have been reported in both our "Monthly" and booklets might not be said of as "absence of roads."

What is more, our president Dr. C. T. Wang did often declare that the membership fee collected during annual campaigns is not only for the purpose of carrying on the affairs of the Association, but of getting more and more members so as to impress the very word "ROAD" in the brain of every one of the people.

We should, however, thank the said writer for his kind criticism which, besides bestowing upon the Association a chance of showing more of its reality, would encourage it to more exertion in its work. But, in order that the public views towards this Association may not be misdirected, we earnestly hope that you will be good enough to allow us your valuable space for the insertion of this letter.

I am, etc.,
Wu San

General Secretary, The National Road Construction Assoc. of China.

Shanghai, Apr. 10, 1924.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS AND VESTED INTERESTS.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—"Few things in history are more remarkable than the total eclipse of all political thought and total abandonment of all effort to improve political conditions in a highly educated and intelligent population such as. . ." The above is a quotation from Bryce's "Modern Democracies," and could well apply to Shanghai. Some of the articles in your paper, and letters from correspondents, almost make me writhe in agony. Can there really be a more benighted spot on the face of the earth?

I want to refer to the proposed water and telephone agreements: as nobody else has written, I suppose I must. This is as it appears to me. The Council consists wholly of representatives of the shareholding class of a small oligarchy who dominate and control everything here. On the Council there is not one single person representing the great bulk of foreign residents. The tacit understanding between this oligarchy and its creatures on the Council is that the interests of the great bulk of the populace must always be secondary to those of the shareholding oligarchy—that everything is to centre around earning dividends for shareholders.

Since 1916 the sum of electricity profits has been handed over to the Council in relief of the rates: if only the telephone and water services were municipal, these also would be providing revenue to relieve the rates. At the present time, by appealing to municipal patriotism, a democratically elected Council would obtain plenty of funds at 5 per cent. Yet now it is proposed to extend the charters of the telephone and water companies for a long term of years, with an arrangement that guarantees dividends, not of 8 per cent. and 9 per cent. but allowing for the bonus shares which the Councillors thoughtfully suggest, may bring the effective guaranteed dividend up to 12 per cent. or more! The only interest our Councillors have before them is the small shareholding coterie in which they live and move and have their being. No great blame can be attached to the Councillors, as they have been brought up to think along these lines. Some of them may be religious men, and attend Church on "the Sabbath;" but from early training they unconsciously make modifications, so that during the six days of the week their ethical principles are those of current commercial Christianity: "Always do others as others would do you, but do them first" and "Blessed are the shareholders, for they shall inherit the earth."

Such blatant narrow-mindedness is generally checked on public bodies by different points of view being represented: but here in Shanghai the representation is monotonously and unrelievedly that of the small oligarchy. The Chinese have a good illustration of narrowmindedness: a toad at the bottom of a well looking up at the wee circle of light, and thinking how small heaven must be! And that is about the size the interests of the bulk of Shanghai residents appear in the eyes of our shareholding Councillors. One would think they themselves would realize this serious defect in personnel, and that they would send Diogenes around with his lantern to find an honest man, who could be appointed on the Council to represent "the poor, and him that hath no helper:" the "top back room" types of residents, whose interests are now wholly ignored.

One more point. In your article on "The Telephone Co. and Council," you make the remark "We have quite enough loans outstanding." What would be thought of a chairman of a railway or steamer company who at the annual meeting spoke in this strain? That "we had the opportunity of taking over an excellent coalmine, which would in effect have earned 12 to 15 per cent. on the additional capital involved; but your directors thought that we should now bend our efforts to reducing capital." The shareholders would have answered, "Reducing capital be blowed: let us have the mine." The interest of the whole community in Shanghai is that if the Council can obtain funds at 5 or 6 per cent. and thereby can avoid the public being mulcted to provide dividends of an effective 12 to 15 per cent. it is clearly "good business" to increase the loans: and only marauding barons will be benefited by repaying existing loans.

I am, etc.,
Fairplay.

Shanghai, April 12, 1924.

PROHIBITION.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In connexion with the recent editorial comment and correspondence on the subject of prohibition in the United States, I take the liberty of sending you a clipping which indicates that behind prohibition in that country there are forces which are not piously sentimental, which are already satisfied with the results of prohibition and which will fight to the last ditch any attempt to remove the restrictions which the Constitutional Amendment has imposed.

Mr. Warren S. Stone, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, has issued the following statement:

"Prohibition has come to stay. We are not going back to the old condition of things, with their misery, want and poverty—never again.

"There are those, I know, who are labouring under the delusion that the prohibition law will be modified or abolished. Someone should wake them from their Rip Van Winkle sleep. I wish such people could go with me for 30 days as I travel over this broad land of ours and see the homes being erected everywhere; note the accounts being opened in the savings banks; see the families out together in the recreation centres. They would see the children taken out of the sweat-shops—well fed, with shoes to wear and warm clothing, going to school. They would see prosperity, happiness and sunshine existing now where formerly there was only squalor and misery. All this as a result of prohibition.

"One might just as well talk about stopping the waves from beating on the shore, or the sunlight descending from heaven, as to stop the world-wide onward march of the prohibition movement.

"There are those who may think it a far cry from the problems of organized labour to the question

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of prohibition. And yet organized labour has played a conspicuous part in the prohibition movement. Ten years before the churches began their nation-wide prohibition crusade, years before railroad officials began issuing orders about drinking, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was fighting the drink evil. A law of the organization that has been in effect during all of the 20 years that I have been executive reads as follows:

"The use of intoxicating liquors, either on or og duty, is prohibited. It shall be the duty of each division or lodge to investigate any violation of this rule, and if any member is found guilty, he shall be expelled. Any division or lodge failing to enforce this law shall have its charter suspended by the Grand Chief Engineer.

"You could not put it much stronger than that and I can testify that this law is rigidly enforced. Again, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, at their international convention in 1918, with 902 votes present, by a unanimous vote of all delegates declared in favour of nation-wide prohibition.

"Since prohibition has come to stay, it is essential that we solve the problems that arise in enforcing the law. Civilization can only exist so long as the people of a country obey its laws. If the people are permitted to disregard certain laws, all laws will eventually be brought into contempt. Those who flout one law attack the foundations upon which all law stands. We cannot go back to the old days. Liquor is an outlaw. It is a rebel. It is the seat of innumerable villainies. It fosters and stimulates treasonable practices. And so liquor must be crushed, but through the enforcement of our liquor laws. To this programme of enforcement, it will be found that organized labour will give increasing support."

There could hardly be stronger words on that subject than these words by Mr. Stone.

I am, etc.,
Gordon Poteat.

Shanghai, April 12, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—To-day, after tiffin, I read again your comments, in Thursday's paper, on the two letters criticizing your observations on "Prohibition Results;" and what you say, Sir, seemed to goad me into action. Instead of settling down and having a quiet nap, after Sunday tiffin, I took up my pen to answer some of the things you say, for, from my point of view, your comments need replying to. No doubt it is rather foolish doing myself out of a quiet after-tiffin nap: but there you are, Sir, some people will do foolish things at times.

You say, Sir:—"The letters received to-day on the subject of prohibition reveal the usual inability of enthusiasts to think clearly." Now, don't you think, Sir, that you are rather enthusiastic yourself, for the cause against prohibition? Are you not in a similar box to that which the other enthusiasts are in? Isn't it the old game of the pot on one hob calling the kettle on the other black? I admit enthusiasts are liable to get their mental vision befogged, and that they "can't see wood for trees" at times. Yet, in this case, I think I see a rift in the foliage through which I get a clear view, unobstructed even by cobwebs.

I think we all admit that there is nothing morally or socially wrong in taking alcohol in moderation; any more than there is in indulging, moderately, in any other narcotic drug. Alcohol, like other narcotics, creates a craving, which all who are addicted to its use strive to satisfy. With most people the craving never, really, gets master of them; but a good percentage are carried away by this craving and become more or less alcoholics, or drug fiends. We all know of the misery, crime and poverty caused by over-indulgence in alcoholic beverages. It is not a question of will power, as many suppose, but it is a question of drug action on the human organism: the action of the drug acting on the nerve centres nullifies the will power. Now, Sir, you referred to Paul, so I will do likewise. St. Paul says:—"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to the weak," and again he says:—"If meat maketh my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I make not my brother to stumble."

Again you say in your comment:—"We are told that if we remove the embargo on alcohol we must equally allow people to steal, to be cruel, to be loose livers." May I ask you, Sir, who told you? I don't think any person with the ability to think clearly could read that meaning into either of the letters you refer to. But, I will tell, Sir, that if the embargo were entirely lifted from alcohol, we should soon be in a pretty queer mess. Every civilized country, of any importance, has an embargo on alcoholic beverages; that is, if you take embargo to mean:—"a restraint or hindrance imposed on anything" I don't think, even you, Sir, would advocate removing all restrictions from alcohol, so as to allow a free, unfettered liquor traffic.

Your reference to Timothy being advised by Paul to take a little wine for his stomach's sake is a weak one: it is rather a good testimony for total abstinence. We know by this, that there were total abstainers in the days of Paul, and that that fine fellow Timothy was one of them—he was a water drinker—he know the danger that lurked in the wake of the wine cup, and he would have nothing to do with it. He wanted to set an example to the Christians he was working among as lieutenant of Paul. Timothy thought it no light thing to take even a little wine for his stomach's sake and his often infirmities. It needed a letter from his great captain to advise him to take a little for medicinal purposes. The ordinary teetotaler will take alcohol as a medicine, and he has no more objection to it for medicinal purposes, than he has to other narcotic drugs that may be in his physician's prescription. If during illness the total abstainer has to take alcohol he will get the full benefit of its medicinal value.

You speak about the Roman Catholic Church having never prohibited alcohol. Nor has any other branch of the Christian Church, with the exception of the Salvation Army; but all branches have had their advocates of Temperance, the Roman Catholic Church included. Was not Father Mathews a great preacher of Total Abstinence? I think we must recollect that it is only within recent years that science has revealed to us the true nature of alcohol, and how dangerous it is to the human organism.

I find it would take too long to go through the whole of your comment on the two letters, and it would take too much of your valuable space. But, Sir, I must say again that I strongly disagree with you, in saying that prohibition is a vicious infringement of liberty. I maintain that the United States has a perfect right to enforce prohibition of alcohol within her borders, when it is done by the will of a big majority of her people. I don't think that it can rightly be called vicious. She has made the decision with the courage that characterizes that great people to try this great experiment—one that has never been made on this earth before. Let us give her a fair chance, and play the game.

I am, etc.,
A Total Abstainer.

Shanghai, Apr. 13, 1924.

"It is easy to see the mote in another's eye and be blind to the beam in one's own. But we do not think, on careful reflexion, that the case between us and our prohibitionist correspondents was one of pot and kettle. For we did admit some good in prohibition, *i.e.*, the boys and girls brought up not to know the taste of alcohol—though even in this testimony another correspondent tells us we are wrong and that it is the commonest thing now in America for boys and girls to carry flasks—whereas the prohibitionists, or at any rate many of them, hold that the mere drinking of alcohol is a deadly sin. Apropos, our correspondent may be right about St. Paul and Timothy. But we observe he has nothing to say about the miracle of Cana in Galilee, in which we find Christ Himself deliberately assisting the pleasantness of the feast by making wine—not grape-juice or Kops ale—when the wine that had been previously provided was finished.

There is no analogy between total abstinence and prohibition. The one is purely voluntary, the other is tyranny. We heartily applaud total abstinence, which is almost invariably undertaken in the hope of helping by example others who cannot drink with moderation. With legislative prohibition we cannot sympathize, and we think that there is much evidence already that it is proving even worse than a failure—Ed.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I am very glad to read your footnote to the letter in today's paper by "Total Abstainer." It needs it. The writer must be one of those people who, however hard they try, can only see one side of a question.

When he mentions the numbers of men and women ruined by alchohol, he is right. But let him look at it this way. Let us suppose that there are a certain hundred men who all drink. Fifty of them drink to excess, 50 in moderation. Before prohibition, the first 50 would eventually have been ruined. Now along comes prohibition. The first 50 continue to drink, because if they try, they can get the liquor. But the liquor they get is foul, and consequently they are finished much sooner and suffer more. Now see the effect on the second 50. They say that they have always drunk in modovation and they don't see why they should stop now. So they continue to obtain liquor, but though they drink no more than before, the stuff they get is foul, and the amount they drink, though not excessive, ruins their health, probably for ever. Unpleasant—very much so.

Then "Total Abstainer" refers to the Bible. So will I. We all remember the miracle of the wedding-feast, when Christ turned the jars of water into wine. Is it likely that Christ, who lived an ideal life, would have used His miraculous power to provide wine if He held that it was wrong to drink?

One thing I noticed when reading an article the other day was the fact that boys and girls at school carried flasks of "hooch" with them, and the girls boasted of the amount of this filthy stuff that they could put down. How can anybody expect to build up a fine nation from youngsters like that? Remember the ever-true proverb "The child is father to the man." Bad habits acquired when young are extremely difficult to break.

Now I would not like "Total Abstainer" to think that I am writing from the point of view of one who can't get his daily drink. I hardly ever drink anything alcoholic, and never touch whisky. But I agree with the American who said: "I don't drink. But when the Law says I must not drink, then I feel I want to." The Law is not for telling men what they may or may not have for dinner. Especially in "The Land of Liberty," where all men are free men—free to do as they like (as long as they drink what they are told).

By the way, "Total Abstainer" has made another mistake. He says that the passing of the law was the result of a majority. Does he think that if every man and woman in America had been allowed to vote, the law would have been passed? And if the majority of the people were in favour of it, why is it that wherever you go in the United States you can get a drink, and that the majority of people want drinks and get them?

I am, etc.,
Rosslyn Picard.

Shanghai, April 16, 1924.

PUBLIC POLICY AND RETRENCHMENT.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—As public expenditure exercises a profound influence on the cost of living I venture to suggest that the time has come to inaugurate a policy of "marking time" in preference to launching out on new projects.

The state of public indebtedness during the last 20 years will be seen from the following figures:—

		Tls.
Total Loan Issues—1904 to	1918	9,000,000
Total, as at Dec. 31,	1919	11,300,000
	1920	16,200,000
	1921	22,400,000
	1922	29,200,000
	1923	33,200,000

A great deal of this Tls. 33,200,000 has been utilized in developing the Municipal Electricity Department and is reproductive.

Interest charges are in the following ratio:—

1918	Tls.	576,000
1919	,,	637,000
1920	,,	844,000
1921	,,	1,431,000
1922	,,	1,744,000
1923	,,	2,279,000

Of the latter figure of Tls. 2,279,000 an amount of Tls. 1,472,000 is charged to Electricity leaving a balance of Tls. 806,000 interest charges upon taxation.

Revenue derived from taxation, Land Tax and the Municipal Rate, is as follows:—

Land Tax:—

1918	Tls.	831,000
1919	,,	1,053,000
1920	,,	1,056,000
1921	,,	1,326,000
1922	,,	1,328,000
1923	,,	1,505,000

Municipal Rate.

	Foreign Tls.	Chinese Tls.	Total Tls.
1918	652,000	992,000	1,645,000
1919	811,000	1,224,000	2,035,000
1920	912,000	1,276,000	2,188,000
1921	1,164,000	1,334,000	2,498,000
1922	1,378,000	1,434,000	2,813,000
1923*	1,606,000	1,536,000	3,142,000

The significance of the above figures is, I submit, not a particular subject for congratulation because neither the taxable area nor the population of the Settlement has increased in anything like the above ratio.

The increase of revenue from the Municipal Rate from Tls. 1,645,000 at the close of the war year, 1918, to Tls. 3,142,000 at the close of 1923 merely provides the ordinary individual with a precise reason why the cost of living goes up and up, and merely shows how house rents and taxes have jazzed along hand in hand to the discomfiture of the Gumps.

I understand there is a proposal to increase Wharfage Dues at Wednesday's meeting of the ratepayers.

Here are the receipts from Wharfage Dues for the past few years:—

1918	Tls.	196,000
1919	,,	268,000
1920	,,	365,000
1921	,,	374,000
1922	,,	379,000
1923	,,	427,000

If the ratepayers pass this resolution then another little turn will be given to the vicious cycle of high cost of living and naturally importers will hand on the extra charge to the public.

I am well aware that I am a voice crying in the wilderness when I urge a policy of public retrenchment in expenditure and outlay.

The pace has been far too hot these past four years for the ordinary Gump, and I am one of the ordinary Gumps of course, or I should not lift up my voice and make this painful bleat for a period of "marking time."

The Settlement is well governed and both Permanent Officials and Councillors do their best, I am sure, for what they consider is their public duty. In a great administration such as the S.M.C. there must of necessity be many matters for criticism, but after all they are minor matters and do not seriously prejudice the public welfare.

It is to the matter of public policy that I venture to direct attention—namely, whether policy should be directed towards further huge commitments and the lavish expenditure of money and accumulation of debt,—or, whether public policy should be deliberately influenced toward marking time and "going without" many of the luxuries which we do not need and can very well do without.

It is in the direction of public policy that Councillors can exercise a beneficent power in favour of us Gumps if they so desire.

It all comes back on the Gumps which ever way you look at it.

A Gump wrote to the "North-China Daily News" the other day and complained of the high price of razor blades or something of the sort, apparently oblivious of the fact that those who sell such useful things are Gumps like the rest of us and have to pay rents and taxes, and get them back from the others like everyone else.

There can be no decrease in H.C.L. until people realize that each one has a responsibility in the matter and can influence public policy one way or the other if they will take the trouble.

That is why I utter this feeble bleat for retrenchment.

Reform is hardly necessary as things are pretty well run on the whole—but I do think the present scale of lavish public expenditure may be curtailed for a while until times get better.

I am, etc.,
W. Bruce Lockhart.

Shanghai, April 15, 1924.

RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I wish to suggest that you modify and stabilize your attitude towards religious matters, by opening your columns for frank and courteous discussion once a week. A definite scheme enables an idea to be grasped more easily, so here it is: That you look around for some person of sanity and courage to act as honorary sub-editor for this purpose: that all letters must be brief (not exceeding half a column), be couched in courteous language, and be signed by the writer's actual name, no *nom-de-plume* being admitted: the sub-editor to be equipped with a blue pencil, wherewith he will make brief comments on letters submitted, returning them to the writers for correction—for the abbreviating of verbosity, the softening of acerbity, or the clarifying of obscurity. Letters deemed worthy of admission should appear on Saturdays only, on a different page from that devoted to ordinary correspondence.

I have never been able to fathom your attitude towards religious discussion. You allowed unlimited freedom to Brother Coates, in a way that I know nauseated many of your readers: but at other times you deprecate discussion over much more vital matters. On one occasion you said there are other journals wherein such discussion might more suitably appear: I have been wondering ever since what particular journal you could have had in mind. I imagine most Shanghai papers would be indignant at being regarded as "religious!"

I regard this—the provision of some opportunity for frank religious discussion—as one of the greatest needs of Shanghai. The average of intelligence and culture of the foreign population of Shanghai is in my estimation as high as any city in the world: but on every hand there are signs of selfishness, and lack of public spirit and of a sense of responsibility. Real religion can do more to remedy these defects than anything else, but there seems a tendency to drift away from religion, because of its supposed inability to respond to modern intellectual needs. I absolutely deny this inability, believing that real religion answers fully to every aspiration.

I imagine that in Shanghai also there are more than the average number of suicides. These are all cases where real religion would have given consolation: and we must remember that for every actual case of suicide there are many on the brink.

As one who regards religion as the very greatest need of man, and as able to respond to our inward yearnings as nothing also can, I appeal to you to adopt my suggestion. Such freedom of discussion can do much good, if carried on without any *odium theologicum*, but in the spirit of good John Woolman, the New England Quaker, who said "I found no narrowness respecting sects and opinions: but believed that sincere, upright-hearted people, in every society, who truly love God, were accepted of Him."

I am, etc.,
Truthseeker.

Shanghai, April 15, 1924.

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COMPANY MEETINGS

BATU ANAM ESTATES

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of the Batu Anam (Johore) Rubber Estates Ld., was held on the 10th instant at the offices of the secretaries, Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., Ld., at which Mr. G. Grayrigge presided, supported by Messrs. C. R. Burkill, L. E. Canning, E. S. Kadoorie, (directors) and W. S. Royston, representing the general managers. After the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report had been read the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen, most of the speeches made at the annual meetings of our local rubber companies have eulogized the restriction measures adopted by the British rubber producing countries and after nearly 18 months experience of its benefits I can say, as a rubber investor, how thankful I am that the British had the good sense and courage to step in and save an industry that otherwise would have largely reverted to the jungle out of which it had been wrested.

The benefits of restriction are reflected in the report and accounts before you. It enabled us to improve the estate during the year and to make a little money, sufficient to permit the recommendation of a very modest 5 per cent. dividend, the first since that on 1919 working. We won't get very fat on that, gentlemen, but we have to be thankful for small mercies these days, and 5 per cent. and a good carry forward are better than the fare served you for four years past.

The price of rubber was really never very robust last year; it rose to 1/6½ London terms in January and dropped to 1/1¾ in December, averaging 1/3 on the year. As the chairman of Repah mentioned in his speech, a price of 2/- per lb. makes very little difference to the eventual consumer, but the difference between 1/3 and 2/- to the producer means pretty well everything in the way of a fair profit and provision of adequate reserves.

Early in 1922 I cherished hopes that my dream of dollar rubber was coming true but such must remain a phantasy until our with us and instead of snatching the chance of pirating a profit from our endeavours, take up their share of the burden of regulating supply to demand and help to place this great enterprise on its feet again. With the world in its present position, with the Dutch producing almost pound for pound what we restrict the marvel is that the price of rubber has not gone still lower. The Dutch must be aware that if it comes to a survival of the fittest the British countries stand just as good if not a better chance of survival than they (the Dutch) do, whereas by working together fair and reasonable profits could be assured without hurting either manufacturer or consumer. We must listen to no further platitudes about the danger of interfering with the law of supply and demand, that twaddle is out of date, though I see it is still voiced by certain Dutch anti-restrictors, stubborn men, who are blind to what restriction has already accomplished. These are the days of combination and in combination lies strength and safety. Therefore we should welcome Dutch co-operation and we have no doubt a scheme of restriction acceptable to all parties could be evolved. It only needs the will, the way can soon be made.

Last year I dwelt upon the necessity of building up a reserve and hoped we should do something in this direction as well as pay dividends. In the report before you we recommend a 5 per cent. dividend and carry forward a fair amount, but we can allocate nothing to reserve on last year's working.

The smaller crop allowed us naturally enhanced our cost of production over 1½d. per lb. but this was well offset by a sale price of over 1/3 as compared with 8¾ in 1922.

To produce our restricted crop we have had recourse to light tapping, rotational tapping and complete resting of some older areas. We are told the benefits are very apparent. Thus restriction, besides preserving the industry as a whole, is also improving the trees by curtailing the demands upon them. Batu Anam must be piling up bark reserves, which remark also applies to most properties in Malaya and will place us in a position to produce largely when, if ever, the time comes to do this.

A deal of progressive work was put in during the year by our energetic manager, Mr. Ridgewell, to whom our thanks are due. Mr. Welch visited the Estate in July last and seemed well pleased with it. As regards the well-being of the estate we may rest content that all is in order and is carefully attended to.

The accounts, gentlemen, show you that we made a net profit of Tls. 23,522.36 and that the total divisible profits to be dealt with are Tls. 54,311.73. These are all represented by liquid assets except the sum of Tls. 11,234.74 which we recommend be disposed of by writing a similar sum off the development account, all our other fixed assets being already written down to one tael each. After the payment of a 5 candareen per share dividend, the carry forward proposed *viz.*, Tls. 22,776.99 is composed of actual cash and rubber stocks.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were formally adopted:—

That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, as presented be adopted and passed; proposed by Mr. G. Grayrigge and seconded by Mr. L. E. Canning.

That the balance at credit of profit and loss account be dealt with as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a dividend of 5 candareens per share	20,000.00
To write off development a/c.	11,234.74
To pay commission to General managers	300.00
To carry forward to a new account	22,776.99
Tls.	54,311.73

Proposed by Mr. G. Grayrigge and seconded by Mr. C. R. Burkill.

That Mr. G. Grayrigge be and hereby is re-elected a director of the company—proposed by Mr. L. E. Canning and seconded by Mr. C. R. Burkill.

That the appointments of Messrs. C. R. Burkill and E. S. Kadoorie as directors of the company be and are hereby confirmed — proposed by Mr. C. J. L. Stewart and seconded by Mr. A. J. Welch.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be and are hereby elected auditors to the company for the ensuing year—proposed by Mr. C. J. L. Stewart and seconded by Mr. A. J. Welch.

There were represented 76,751 shares.

SHANGHAI MALAY RUBBER ESTATES

The Benefits of Restriction: Hopeful Outlook for Estate's Future

The annual general meeting of the Shanghai-Malay Rubber Estates, Ld., was held on Monday at the offices of the secretaries (Messrs. Beck & Swann), Mr. G. Grayrigge (chairman) presiding. The other directors present were Messrs. L. E. Canning, E. S. Kadoorie, and A. J. Welch, and altogether 25,617 shares were represented.

The notice convening the meetnig, and the auditors' report, having been read,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—When I last had this privilege, our hopes of the future course of prices were more optimistic than subsequent events and to-day's position justified; nevertheless a glance at the report will show you that the recurn from 226,687 lb. sold in 1923 at 14.83d. is larger than the return from 339,726 sold in 1922 at 8.69d. There you have the first benefit of restriction in a nutshell. The other benefits that are not shown by figures are the improved physical condition of our main asset, the trees, through the lessened demand on them, and the large increase in our bark reserves, and in this business bark is the bank we have to rely upon. If our good neighbours, the Dutch, could but recognize these outstanding facts and join in with us in the good work of putting the rubber industry on its legs again, the future outlook would indeed be pleasant. This could be done without oppressing manufacturers or consumers, and in any case they have had a long enough innings at cheap prices and should have the good sense not to squeal when the producer asks to live and to save a little besides. The amount of rubber in a tyre, for instance, is small, and the difference caused on the cost of same between 1s. and 2s. rubber is negligible to those who can afford motor-cars, whereas the extra shilling would make all the difference imaginable to the rubber grower. But rubber still continues one of the cheapest commodities in the world and I am afraid will remain so until the Dutch co-operate with our policy of suiting supply to demand.

ESTATES DEVELOPING.

Our two estates during the year under review were carefully administered and a good deal of work of a beneficial nature has been done. Visiting agents' reports are of a satisfactory nature and complimentary to both of the estate managers. One of our directors, Mr. Welch, visited the properties last summer and his reports indicate that he was pleased with what he saw.

Our standard production is 408,961 lb. per annum, but it remains to be seen how the new assessment affects us, whether we get an increased or a decreased allowance. Pending this, we are permitted to export at the ratio of 60 per cent. of our standard production. When the call comes, if ever, for intensive production, these estates should respond readily and demonstrate the advantages they have gained from resting and light tapping.

The accounts for 1923 are more attractive than their predecessors. The net profit for the year amounted to Tls. 23,322.27 which, added to the carry forward from the previous year, gave us Tls. 42,446.25 to deal with. Out of this we paid Tls. 40,000 by way of arrears of dividend on the cumulative and participating preference shares, which leaves us with the dividend due for the year 1923 still to overtake. We have the hard cash, but have not the necessary profit in the profit and loss account; in fact, after deducting all known liabilities we began 1924 with liquid assets amounting to Tls. 32,866.85, which is quite a satisfactory position.

Subject to your approval it is our intention to utilize the small balance in profit and loss account viz: Tls. 2,446.25 to write down certain of the assets to a nominal sum of one tael each.

We closed 1922 owing a big sum to our bankers; we closed 1923 in a comfortable financial position, but with an increase in capital of Tls. 73,800 or a total of Tls. 573,800. The new issue of shares hung fire until Mr. Kadoorie came in and took up Tls. 63,860 out of Tls. 73,800, and it is thus solely due to his courage and confidence that the company is now not only out of debt and danger, but is in funds.

There were no questions, and the following resolutions were formally carried:—

That the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, as printed and circulated to the shareholders, be passed.—Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Canning.

That Mr. L. E. Canning be re-elected a director of the company.—Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kadoorie.

That Messrs. Lowe Bingham & Matthews be re-elected auditors of the company until next anuual meeting at a fee of Tls. 300, such fee to include the audit in the Straits.—Proposed by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Y. C. Chu.

THE ANGLO-JAVA ESTATES

Reduction of the Areas Under Hemp: Excellent Results of Thinning Process

The annual meeting of the Anglo-Java Rubber Estates, Ld., was held on Monday afternoon in the offices of the general agents, Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., 10 Canton Road. Mr. A. J. Welch, Chairman, presided, supported by Messrs. W. W. Cox, W. R. McBain, E. S. Kadoorie (directors) and Mr. C. J. L. Stewart, representing the secretaries. There were 94,308 shares represented.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report having been read by Mr. C. J. L. Stewart, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the usual procedure and take them as read.

The report is compiled in the usual form and gives you a fairly comprehensive survey of the company's operations during the year.

You will have noticed that on Limburg Estate the area under rubber has been increased and the area under hemp reduced by 164 acres during the year, and it is the intention of your Board to continue this process as successive areas of the hemp gardens fall due for replanting until finally hemp will disappear as one of our cultures. As already explained the land where the hemp is grown has hitherto been considered unsuitable for the growth of Hevea on account of the presence of a layer of hard ground a short distance below the surface, in some places this is only a few inches thick and in others over a foot, which prevents the tap root of the Hevea from going down to any depth. It appears that at some period in the past these areas were originally rice fields which accounts for the formation of this crust.

In 1920 the hard crust was broken through over about 50 acres of old hemp gardens which were then planted with budded stumps. These plants have come along splendidly thus proving the soil to be suitable for the growth of rubber. Test holes in other parts of the area have shown that splendid soil exists below the obstruction.

Such being the case, your directors decided gradually to replace hemp with Hevea. The reasons that prompted them to come to this decision are manifold.

INDIFFERENT RESULTS FROM HEMP.

Firstly the handling of hemp is cumbersome and troublesome necessitating as it does a great deal of power to work the machinery and a large amount of space for drying and godown accommodation, furthermore, in order to derive the full benefit from our hemp area by permitting the preparation of fibre during the wet weather, which we cannot do at present and to improve the quality of our product it would be necessary to buy a centrifugal drier, a hydraulic baling press, two or three Kilometres more of rails for the tram line and certain other machinery the cost of which is estimated at from F. 65,000 to 70,000.

Secondly, the profit for the five years 1919-1923 has averaged only F. 12,667.30 per annum without allowing anything for depreciation of the machinery, which is heavy. Over 948 acres this only represents a profit of F. 13.36 per acre per annum or assuming that the same area under rubber yields at the rate of 300 lb. per acre per annum a profit equivalent to 4½ cents per lb.

In the light of these facts your directors do not feel that the possible profit justifies the large additional expenditure necessary.

70 ACRES MORE RUBBER.

On Barek Division there are about 70 acres that are at present planted with foodstuffs, this area will be planted with budded stumps and selected seed as soon as sufficient material is available in the nurseries.

On the same division all coffee having been cut out, the coffee factory has been converted into a rubber factory so that latex can now be coagulated, made into Sheets and smoked on Barek and then sent to Limburg for final drying and packing, instead of being merely coagulated on Barek and sent to Limburg for further treatment as at present.

The production from the whole estate will now be of the same standard which was impossible before.

The dredger worked satisfactorily during the year, its daily capacity being some 175 cubic metres against a guaranteed capacity of 150 cubic metres.

By the end of the year the whole lake had been dredged to a depth of 6½ feet but work will proceed until a uniform depth of 13 feet has been attained.

The standard of tapping has been maintained at its usual high level and bark consumption is well within the prescribed limits. Pests or diseases gave practically no trouble during the year.

As regards Djarangan Estate tapping is being well and carefully done, bark consumption is kept within the standard limit and Bark renewal is steadily improving as the stoppage of wash and the benefit of the humus from the mimosa make their effects felt. The growth of the trees on Loengoer Hedjo division has very much improved since the coffee was cut out and mimosa planted. The major portion of this area will be ready for the knife by the end of this year, but it is our intention to defer opening it up so long as we can obtain with ease our restricted allowance from the older areas.

TEST OF THE THINNING PROCESS.

Thinning out is being done in accordance with the results shown by the records of yield from individual trees, and a very interesting experiment designed to test the soundness of the principles on which our selection by yield is based has just been completed over an area of 35 acres.

This area was originally planted with 4,436 trees of which the records taken during 1922 and 1923 showed 2,072 trees to be very poor yielders. These inferior trees were accordingly all removed with the astonishing result that during the three months October to December, 1923, the yield from this area was 1,743 lb. as compared with 1,255 lb. for the same period last year from practically double the number of trees under the same tapping system. The remaining trees are reported to be in splendid condition and rapidly closing up the open spaces with their crown development.

Over other areas that have been thinned out by selection the results are the same, either no noticeable reduction in crop or a very small one and that quickly made good and the yield showing a steady upward movement.

THE ACCOUNTS.

If you will turn, now, to the accounts you will see that the year's working has resulted in a profit of Guilders 667,508 to which Limburg contributed Guilders 514,466 and Djarangan Guilders 153,042.

After certain Reserves and transfers have been made the net profits amount to Guilders 439,621 which I think may be considered very satisfactory.

There was very little capital expenditure during the year, the only considerable items being new buildings and rolling stock on Limburg and the upkeep of the immature area on Djarangan.

The accounts of the Shanghai company are quite straightforward. Your directors propose to transfer Tls. 84,328.62 from premium on shares account and to write this amount off the cost of the shares in the two Dutch companies. This will have the effect of making the cost of the shares correspond with the issued capital of the company.

If you pass the appropriations recommended by your directors the company will start the new year with a surplus of liquid assets over liabilities of Tls. 234,550 which should be sufficient to enable us to meet any contingencies that may arise.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would like to express on behalf of the Board our appreciation of the good work done by both the managers and their staffs to whose efforts are due the very satisfactory position in which we find ourselves to-day.

That is all I have to say,

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Gentlemen, but, before formally proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were formally adopted—

That the directors' report and statement of accounts as presented be adopted and passed—proposed by the chairman and seconded by Mr. Wakeford Cox.

That a final dividend of 30 candareens per share, making 55 candareens for the year, be paid—proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. R. McBain.

That the appointment of Mr. E. S. Kadoorie as a director of the company be confirmed—proposed by Father Sallou and seconded by Mr. G. Grayrigge.

That Mr. W. W. Cox be re-elected a Director of the company—proposed by Mr. E. S. Kadoorie and seconded by Mr. S. M. Joseph.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-elected auditors to the company for the ensuing year—proposed by Father Sallou and seconded by Mr. G. Grayrigge.

GORDON & CO., LD.

Successful Year: Annual Meeting

The eighth annual general meeting of Gordon & Co., Ld., was held at the offices of Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews on Monday Mr. D. W. Crawford (Chairman) presided, supported by Mr. C. H. Ryde (director) and Mr. P. T. Hillman (managing-director), and shareholders and proxies representing 1,841 shares.

The Chairman, proposing the adoption of the export and accounts, said:

The report and accounts have not been in your hands quite as long as usual owing to the very short time at disposal in closing down the books consequent upon the managing director's early departure on Home leave. I will, nevertheless, assume your permission to take them as read. Owing to a printer's error the profit is given for the year ended February 28. This should, of course, be February 29, 1924. In spite of very keen competition the year has again been quite a successful one and I think we have reasons for congratulations. No further shares have been issued.

Turning to the balance sheet, our sundry creditors are about the same as last year. Stock on hand, and work in progress are Tls. 13,562.89 less. Bills payable and stock in transit do not appear as all our acceptances were paid as at February 29. Sundry debtors are higher, but this is probably to be expected with the present stringency of trade conditions. You may rest assured that full provision has been made for bad or doubtful debts.

Cash at the bank is Tls. 9,346.13 less. The item cash in hand is principally represented by payments made at the end of February and unable to be banked and our dollar account with the bankers. The combined cash assets are greater than last year.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

A new item appears this year—investment account. Certain of the company's cash assets have been invested in local debentures. A better rate of interest is thereby obtained, and as the securities are all gilt-edged they are easily realizable. A list of such is here for any shareholder's inspection. Their value is taken at cost.

In regard to the profit and loss account, allocations are made to this with the object of conserving the company's resources to the utmost. Amounts proposed to be written off machinery and tools, lorry, and furniture and fixtures, are the balances of purchases made during the year after deducting depreciation. Passage reserve account is the result of a suggestion made by your auditors.

If you agree to the proposed allocation your reserves will then stand as follows:—

	Tls.
General Reserve	100,000.00
Stock Reserve	25,000.00
Sundry Debtors' Reserve	10,015.46
Passage Reserve	5,000.00
Total Tls.	140,015.46

—which, I think you will agree, is a very sound position. Under present conditions a larger dividend and bonus distribution appears inadvisable, but as such is on a parity with last year, and conditions have not been nearly so favourable, your directors hope the amounts have your entire approval.

The accounts are presented in the usual form and I trust are clear to you all.

Mr. C. H. Ryde seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The following resolutions were also passed:—

That the balance at credit of profit and loss account be disposed of as recommended.—Proposed by Mr. C. H. Ryde, seconded by Mr. P. T. Hillman.

That Messrs. C. H. Ryde and R. J. Bowerman be re-elected directors of the company.—Proposed by Mr. D. W. Crawford, seconded by Mr. P. T. Hillman.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-appointed auditors of the company.—Proposed by Mr. F. B. Gange, seconded by Mr. R. J. Cowell.

The Chairman.—I think we may all take the opportunity of wishing Mr. Hillman a very pleasant holiday and a happy return.—(Applause).

SHANGHAI HORSE BAZAAR

Annual Meeting of Shareholders: Satisfactory Business in a Year of Great Depression

Mr. J. Ambrose presided at the 21st annual general meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld., held on Tuesday. Messrs. A. W. Burkill and P.W.O. Liddell were the other directors present, and the whole attendance represented 1319 shares.

The notice covening the meeting, and the auditor's report, having been read:

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen: The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read.

Your Directors trust you will find the result of the year's working under review quite satisfactory, more especially that it was one of great business depression and adversely affected a business like ours, and unfortunately the outlook shows no change for the better.

It must be obvious to you all that the present political situation in China only aggravates trade and financial conditions which is bound to affect any business dealing in what might be termed luxuries such as our business supplies, and until conditions change there is very little hope for any marked improvement.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the accounts you will notice that Directors' fees are lower by Tls 750, as we have found that at present a Board of three is quite able to carry on the work of the company in a satisfactory manner.

Bank interest in the company's overdraft shows a decrease from the previous year of Tls. 3,010.66, and we have every reason to anticipate a further decrease during the current year.

You will notice from the balance sheet that our overdraft with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation on December 31, last was Tls. 282,548.46, as against Tls. 334,479.36 at the end of 1922 or a reduction during the of Tls. 50,930.90.

To-day the Bank overdraft has been further reduced to Tls. 269,-650.55.

General reserve is unchanged at Tls. 60,000.00 but your directors porpose allocating to it out of the profits of 1923 a further sum of Tls. 15,000.00 thereby bringing this reserve to Tls. 75,-000.00. Your directors consider it in the best interests of the company to add to general reserve as it is not earmarked for any specific purpose, but may be used as decided by the Board.

Bad debts at the end our financial year stood at Tls. 15,900.-41 and you will later be asked to increase this to Tls. 20,000.00 by allocating to it the sum of Tls. 4,099.59 out of the profits of 1923.

Stock reserve stands as Tls. 125,000.00 which your directors consider ample at present as it represents, roughly, 25 per cent. of our total stocks.

Buildings reserve which at December 31, 1923, stood at Tls. 10,-256.71 has disappeared from this year's accounts, it having been used to meet the cost of additions during the year.

Sundry creditors, which included bills payable of Tls. 63,-613.53, amounted on December 21, last to Tls. 81,695.47, all of which have since been paid.

Suspense Account Tls. 4,881.61 consists of various items which it was impossible to settle by the end of the year, but most of these accounts have since been paid.

NETT PROFITS.

Profits and loss account shows a nett profit for the year of Tls. 63,006.44, to which must be added the balance of Tls. 18,546.04 brought forward from the previous year making a total of Tls. 81,552.48 at credit of this account as on December 31 last.

As you will have seen from the report before you your directors will recommend that this be disposed of in the manner therein proposed.

Turning to the assets you will see that your land which stands in the books at Tls. 118,141.17 is assessed at Tls. 246,899.00 or a difference in your favour of Tls. 128,757.83.

Buildings stand at Tls. 141,-688.34. Certain additions were made during the year principally in the erection of a new forge and godown over same, and depreciation on the usual lines has been provided for.

Furniture and fittings now stand at Tls. 1,610.58 after the usual depreciation has been provided for, but your Directors propose reducing this item to Tls. 500 by allocating to this account Tls. 1,110.58 out of the profits of the past year. It may not be out of place to remark that since 1918 reductions on this account have amounted to Tls. 10,560.13 exclusive of the usual depreciation.

Machinery and plant now stands at Tls. 8,310.15 and you will be asked to reduce this to Tls. 3,000 by the allocation of Tls. 5,310.15 out of the profits of 1923. Since 1920 there has been written off this account the sum of Tls. 20,660.40.

Electrical fittings stand at Tls. 628.05 and you will be requested to reduce this item to the nominal figure of Tls. 100 at which it stood at the commencement of 1923.

Telephone shares of which we hold 20 shares show a loss at December 31 last of Tls. 10 the difference between book and market value at that date.

General stocks has been taken item by item by Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews and all stocks have been certified by the general manager, the total of these for the last three years being:—

	Tls.
1921	486,110.40
1922	509,275.58
1923	473,960.30

and your directors anticipate these stocks will be still further reduced during the current year.

Sundry Debtors. Out of the amount of Tls. 157,003.13 general sundry debtors amount to Tls. 154,587.30, the difference of Tls. 2,415.83 representing various deposits of which Tls. 1,020 have since been paid. The above may seem to you very large, but out of this amount December accounts amount to Tls. 75,638.48. Of these sundry debtors due at December 31, last Tls. 80,481.14 has been collected which your directors consider highly satisfactory considering the fact that it is often necessary to sell cars on terms.

I do not think I have anything more to say in connexion with the accounts for 1923, but I shall be glad to do my best to answer any question shareholders may wish to ask in connexion with same.

The following resolutions were formally carried:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Liddell: That the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed.

Proposed by Mr. G. H. Purcell, seconded by Mr. R. Paterson: That Mr. A. W. Burkill be re-elected a director of the company.

Proposed by Mr. R. L. Fearon, seconded by Mr. G. H. Purcell: That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-elected auditors for the coming year.

This was all the business of the meeting, which closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Fearon.

BUTE PLANTATIONS LIMITED

Improved Position of the Company: Now Entirely Free of Debt

The annual general meeting of the Bute Plantations (1913) was held on Tuesday at the offices of the general managers, 2 Canton Road. Mr. A. W. Burkill presiding over an attendance representing 68,171 shares.

The notice convening the meeting having been read the Chairman said:

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time I will, with your permission, take them as read.

When I addressed you last year, I had occasion to refer to the unsatisfactory financial spoition of the company. At that time we were burdened with a debt of Tls. 30,500 loans outstanding and an amount of Tls. 13,076.14 standing at debit of profit and loss account. In other words, the company, at the beginning of the year, was faced with a deficit of approximately Tls. 43,500 which, in the ordinary course of events, would have taken some considerable time to wipe out. I am glad to say that the position at the close of the company's financial year had very much improved, our loan account having been reduced by Tls. 20,500 and the profit on the year's working more than covering the losses incured during the past three years. This satisfactory result is due to the better price realized from the sale of our crop and also to the sale of a portion of our reserve jungle land. I might say that the balance of the proceeds from the sale of the land was received during the early part of this year, thus enabling us to pay off the balance of the loan account.

The company is now entirely free of debt and, at present prices, is producing its rubber at a profit but hardly sufficient to warrant any immediate expectation of a return to shareholders. Should, however, there be any improvement in the price of rubber, the directors will, at the first opportunity, give every consideration to the payment of a dividend.

The planted area of the company remains the same as last year, viz: 870 acres. During the year 860 acres of reserve land were sold and the proceeds from the sale of this land, as you will note from the report, have been credited to the estate account which now stands in our books at Tls 119,079.07 The company still has a sufficiently large area of reserve land for any future development that is likely to be undertaken.

Several changes have been made in the Estate staff. Mr. Hawes left the Estate at the end of August and was succeeded by Mr. P. A. Debieux who resigned the management last month. We have now engaged the services of Mr. Ch. O. Strettell, late of the Shanghai-Klebang Estate, who comes to us well recommended. Mr. Strettell proceeds to the estate early in May and in the meantime the property is being administered by Mr. Morgan of the Dominion Estate.

PROGRESS ON THE ESTATE

Notwithstanding the changes in management, the estate has not been allowed to retrogress, in fact excellent progress has geen made during the year. Lallang which made its appearance last year has been completely eradicated and the whole estate is in a clean condition. The health of the force is very much improved and labour is adequate for present requirements. The position as regards diseases is normal and quite a lot of useful work in clearing Division "B" of surface timber was accomplished. The estate has been regularly visited by Major Stevens whose reports confirm the steady improvement that has taken place throughout the year.

The following resolutions were carried:—

That the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, together with the recommendation as to appropriation of balance at credit of profit and loss account as presented, be accepted.—Proposed by the Chairmen, seconded by Mr. E. T. Byrne.

That Mr. E. T. Byrne be re-elected a director of the company.—Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. K. Craddock.

That Messrs. Thomson & Co. be re-elected Auditors to the Company.—Proposed by Mr. W. A. Ogden, seconded by Mr A. K. Craddock.

DOMINION RUBBER COMPANY

Reduction in Producing Cost and Higher Prices for Rubber

The annual general meeting of the Dominion Rubber Co., Ld., was held at the offices of A. R. Burkill & sons on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. E. T. Byrne (Chairman) presided, and was supported by Messrs. G. Grayrigge and A. W. Burkill (Directors), and 20,-604 shares were represented.

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time I will, with your permission, follow the usual course and take them as read.

Since the last report, 1,338 shares have been issued, bringing the subscribed capital up to Tls. 166,670. These shares represent applications received from shareholders living abroad and from shareholders wishing to round off their holdings. With regard to the latter shares, these were issued at market rates and the premium on the issue of these shares amounting to Tls. 172.70 has been written off property account.

A comparison of the results of the past year's working with those of the previous year will show you that the better prospects forecasted in my speech last year have been realized. The f.o.b. cost of production, including Shanghai charges, shows a reduction of 1.41d. and the price received from the rubber is better by 5.63d. per lb. Our output exceeded the previous year's crop by 53,396 lb. This increase, as you will note from the report, is due to the fact that during 1922 Dominion Estate was only tapped for six months of that year. The profit for the year amounted to Tls. 35,792.36 from which must be deducted the loss of Tls. 13,812.53 brought forward from last year's accounts, leaving a balance of Tls. 21,979.83 to be dealt with. With regard to the appropriation of this amount, the directors consider that the result of the year's working justifies the payment of a small dividend and I will shortly propose that a dividend of Tls. 0.10 per share be paid, and that the sum of Tls. 1,537.47 be written off certain assets: Tls. 1,000, bonus to estate managers be paid and that the balance of Tls. 2,775.36 be carried forward to next year's accounts.

SATISFACTORY WORKING

The working of both estates throughout the year was uniformly satisfactory. After completing the first round of thinning out in 1922 on Dominion Estate, no further work of this nature was undertaken during the year under review. The trees selected for the second round have improved to such an extent that they will only be taken out if the yield testing demonstrates they merit it. Diseases and white ants gave a certain amount of trouble but the preventive treatment accorded has been entirely successful. A sum of $3,006 has been spent in timber clearing, 268 acres being treated and excellent work is reported to have been done. The estate is in perfect order from a weeding point of view and weeding costs show considerable reduction over the previous year. In his report on Dominion, Major Stevens, our visiting agent, states: "We finish the year with the property in a vastly improved condition from a maintenance point of view, the bark position

(Continued on Page 102.)

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Apr. 17.

Bank's Demand Selling Rate for £1 at 3/2⅜=Tls. 6.25 at 7160=$8.73
Bank's Demand Selling Rate for G.$100 at 69¾=Tls. 143.37 at 7160=$200.24
Mex. Dollars, market rate 7185
Native Interest 08
Copper Cash 264,000
Bar Silver 33¼
Bank rate of Discount 4%
Paris on London Frs. 70.05
New York on London G.$4.35 1/16

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	Per Tael
Telegraphic Transfer	3/2¼
Demand	3/2⅜
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69½
Demand	69¾
PARIS—	
Demand	1113
INDIA—	
Demand	226¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	73¾
JAPAN—	
Demand	59½
BATAVIA—	
Demand	192
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	73½

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3
4 m/s. Credits	3/4¼
4 m/s. Docs.	3/4⅜
6 m/s. credits	3/4¾
6 m/s. Docs.	3/5¼
NEW YORK—	
Demand	70¾
4 m/s. Credits	73
4 m/s. Docs.	73½
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1190
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/2⅜
New York T.T.	70

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR APRIL

Hk. Tls. 5.40 at 3/3¼		£1
,, 1 at 1631½		Frs. 18.17
,, 1.28 at 69⅞		Gold $1
,, 1 at 62⅜		Yen 1.79
,, 1 at 233½		Rupees 2.60
,, 1 at 1.50		Mex. $1.50
,, 1 at 16.35		It. Lire 18.21

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Apr. 17.

It. Lire 15.55	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 3.93	Tl. 1
It. Lire 9.10	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Apr. 18.

At the close of business on the 16th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 32,507,000 and $44,970,000.

Those figures include Tls. 8,060,000 and $28,140,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 2,066 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals:—
Nil.
Shipments:—
5 bars to Hongkong.

SYCEE.

Arrivals:—
Nil.
Shipments:—
Tls. 150,000 to Foochow.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals:—
$400,000 from River Ports.
160,000 ,, Soochow.
130,000 ,, Chinkiang.
$690,000

Shipments:—
$300,000 to Amoy.
180,000 ,, Tungchow.
100,000 ,, Hankow.
50,000 ,, Hangchow.
$630,000

SILVER.

The price came yesterday at 33¼d. ready and forward against 33d. ready and forward at the date of our last report.

India has bought and China both bought and sold. During the week the market has been quiet and steady.

EXCHANGE.

The official rate for T.T. has remained unchanged for a fortnight at 3/2¼. The market has been quiet and steady during the period under review. There are however sellers for any delivery up to December at 3/2⅜d. and at times the forward quotation has been at a premium over near delivery. Very few export bills have been offering: they could be placed generally at 3/3⅜d. and G.$71¾ near and forward.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

Writing on March 5 Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. say:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on February 27, amounted to £126,272,360, as compared with £126,270,560 on the previous Wednesday.

A good proportion of the substantial amount of gold on offer this week has been taken for India.

Gold valued at $10,080,000 has arrived in New York from London.

The "Indian Labour Gazette" for January, 1924, thus deals with gold and prices:—

"Since pre-war days there has been a fall in the value of gold of between 40 and 45 per cent. The calculations of the Labour Office show that the fall at the end of December, 1923, as compared with the pre-war month July, 1914, is 44.6 per cent. The Federal Reserve Board of America estimates the fall at 40 per cent. This is due to the discarding of the metal for currency in almost all countries. The price of gold has, in other words, not advanced with the general level of prices. Had it done so the price would have been Rs. 24/10/0 multiplied by 188 and divided by 100 (188 being the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay on December 31, 1923 and Rs. 24/10/0 the price of gold in July, 1914), i.e. Rs. 46/4/9 instead of which the market rate on January 11 "was Rs. 25/12/0, i.e. a fall of nearly 44.4 per cent. below its pre-war value. The price of gold for Bombay has been calculated because the real value of gold is very nearly the same throughout the world. The result does not differ very greatly from that arrived at by calculation from the American index number."

SILVER.

Again the silver market has been quiet and buyers and sellers disinclined to operate. Indian dealers have refrained from doing much business in this market. Sales have been made by China and the Continent, and, support coming from somewhat reluctant bear covering, prices have eased to some extent. The tone just now is inclined to be flat, but offerings of silver are so moderate that a better tendency would soon show itself if serious inquiry set in from India or China.

The "Times" correspondent telegraphs from Berlin under date of the 4th instant as follows:—"It has been decided that silver coinage up to the amount of five marks per head of the population shall be issued to augment the currency. If the whole amount is issued it would represent an additional 300,000,000 gold marks. The report that the Reichsbank has been buying silver in the open market is denied. The bank is stated to possess sufficient silver for the purpose." Apart from the silver held by the Reichsbank under the heading of "other assets" (which has been stated to be the source from which the silver for coinage is to be provided), there must be a very substantial holding of silver in the Metallic Reserve. On February 23, last the total shown under the latter heading was Mks. 867,000,000, of which gold was returned as Mks. 465,000,000, leaving Mks. 402,000,000 or say £19,700,000 composed of silver or other metals.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

An Uninteresting Week in Imports and Exports: No Outstanding Feature

Apr. 18.

Nothing of great interest can be recorded about the markets this week. Imports appear to be as dull as exports, and if there is any outstanding feature in the week's business it can only be described as a slight improvement in the piece goods demand.

PIECE GOODS.

Very low rates of interest are now ruling with native banks, these having dropped to as low as Tls. 0.15, and this has apparently given Chinese piece goods dealers an incentive to operate. The result is that a certain amount of orders have been forthcoming during the past week, although the scale on which business is taking place is not large. Hankow is a much better market than for some time past, while Tientsin and Ningpo are taking an interest in Fancies, Greys and Whites. The trend of prices is towards firmness.

There is a suggestion that stocks of Spring Fancies may have to be carried over, owing to the disappointing demand which has recently been experienced. It is difficult to arrive at a correct estimation of the position in this respect, and too much should not be made of the view quoted.

As far as the auctions are concerned there is little change to record from a week ago. The principal feature of the sales has been the demand for Whites, while as regards Blacks little interest has been shown, speculative buying having been largely absent. There is the usual search for cheap cargo on the part of this element, but it is not forthcoming.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—China cotton has been firm during the week, and the sentiment is bullish. Mills, however, have only made small purchases, and only supplies for immediate requirements have been made. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the following prices are quoted:—April 47: May 46.45; June 45.90; July 45.35; August 44.10; September 41.55. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 48.50; Shanghai 45.50; Shensi 46.50/47.50; Hankow 45/45.50; Nanzu 45; Kashing 45.50; Hokushi 45.50.

Yarn.—The market for yarn remains steady. The mills are not securing any further business worth mentioning, but yarn already in dealers' hands is being disposed of at stronger rates. The sentiment of the market is reported as bullish. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the quotations given are as follows:—April 178.50; May 176.50; June 174.50; July 173.20; August 171.30; September 169.50.

Messrs. J. Spunt & Co. report: China Cotton.—While our market did not prove to be as active as was expected by the trade, prices ruled steady and fluctuations moved within a narrow range. At the close, however, a slight weakness became noticeable due principally to declines, apparently of a temporary nature, evolving in the yarn markets. As to the future trend of the local raw cotton market there appears, at the moment, nothing on its horizon to encourage any bearish sentiment, notwithstanding the comparatively poor demand on the part of consumers in general for the staple and notwithstanding the decline of about 80 points in Mid Americans and about Rs. 9 per kandy in Indians on what was last reported.

The effect of the latter is offset by the unfavourable exchange rates for importations of the foreign fibre and the mills in China can have recourse only to the domestic growth which naturally will affect the rates if not to a higher basis then to a steady to firm tendency until such time when the new crop features become in so far visible as to induce a more definite outlook for the future. Tone of the market, steady.

SILK.

The silk market is dead, and no demand is noted from any quarter.

Local prices show a tendency to go lower.

PRODUCE.

The produce market reflects the present world trade depression, and with uninterested Home markets no business worth mentioning is taking place. Local stocks are in short supply.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK

Half-Year's Profit

The report of the directors of the Yokohama Specie Bank for the half year ending December 31 last has now been issued, the balance sheet being as follows:—

		Y.
Profit for the past half year		11,646,000
Less:		
Contribution to Yokohama reconstruction	1,000,000	
Reserve for doubtful debts in consequence of earthquake	2,034,000	
Depreciation of properties in Yokohama and Tokio	1,100,000	4,134,000
Net Profit		7,512,000

The Directors propose that Y.1,500,000 be added to the reserve fund, and recommend a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Y.6,000,000.

The balance, Y.5,120,364, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

LANCASHIRE COTTON MILLS

Short Time Continued

London, Apr. 13.

The Federation of Master Cottonspinners of Manchester have decided to continue short time in the American cotton section until the end of September, instead of reverting to full time in May, as had previously been arranged. The scheme affects two-thirds of the whole trade.—Reuter.

TEBONG RUBBER ESTATE

Dividend of 5 Candareens

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld. held on Tuesday it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting that a dividend of 5 candareens per share be paid.

FRANCE'S INCREASE IN REVENUE

Paris, Apr. 14.

The revenue returns for March totalled Frs. 2,110,000,000, making the total returns for the first three months of the year Frs. 5,861,000,000 as compared with Frs. 4,656,000,000 for the same period last year. All returns exceed the estimates by about 40 per cent.

As yet the new Finance Bill has not noticeably affected the revenue.—Reuter.

Japan's March Trade Returns

Tokio, Apr. 8.

Japan's foreign trade returns for March show a total for imports of Y.305,536,000 and for exports of Y.120,075,000.

Since the beginning of the year imports have totalled Y.813,860,000, and exports Y.336,274,000. The country's unfavourable balance of trade for the first three months of 1923 is thus Y.477,686,000.

Compared with March of last year imports have increased by Y.107,491,000, while exports have fallen off by Y.11,815,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Japan's Railway Revenue

Tokio, Apr. 8.

Railway revenue during the year 1923 amounted to Y.428,688,677. Of this sum passenger receipts accounted for Y.253,557,831, the balance, Y.175,130,846, being freight earnings.

Compared with the returns for 1922, passenger receipts show an increase of Y.17,510,000, but the freight receipts have fallen off to the amount of about Y.2,000,000, the decrease being attributed to the difficulties arising from the disaster of last September.

Still both totals for the year under review have exceeded their estimates by Y.5,000,000 and Y.4,000,000 respectively.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OIL DEMAND AND OUTPUT

Industry Improving

The "Financial Review" (New York) says in its issue of March 8:—

Indicating that the corner has at last been turned in the oil industry, the Geological Survey reports that in January, for the first time since 1922, "apparent consumption" exceeded new production. While "apparent consumption" is actually refinery takings, and although refined stocks will doubtless continue to increase until May or June, nevertheless, the reversal in overproduction shows that conditions are at last improving.

Output is now more or less stabilized close to 1,900,000 bbls. a day. This rate, however, will certainly be increased shortly, when the cold weather is over and results of heavier scale of new drilling are felt. In February, there were 176 more completions than in January, and the initial productivity was 104,786 bbls. higher, at 200,987. At the end of the month, there were 50 more drilling operations in progress, or 4,392. Any talk of a "famine" in crude oil supplies this year is therefore clearly unsound.

The political angle of the oil industry still commands the centre of interest. It is understood that Senator La Follette is making progress in framing a drastic measure to "regulate" the industry. Although but little information has been given out, it is said that export of petroleum and products is to be prohibited, presumably in answer to those alarmists who continually preach an impending famine in oil and exhaustion of our natural resources. Price regulation may also be an important feature of the La Follette bill.

The continuous vociferation of the oil trade press, even before any harm has been felt, conclusively indicates the degree of apprehension existing within the industry.

The refined oil market has been hard hit by unreasonable weather, and wholesale prices have broken badly in many quarters. This reverse, however, is nowhere apparent in the retail gasoline price lists, where the calendar is the dominant influence. Now that the heavy winter demand for kerosene is ended, however, it is strikingly noticeable that these prices are beginning to recede.

German chemists have prepared a synthetic substitute for gasoline, produced from coal, and which is said to possess points of superiority over other fuels. The utilization of alcohol with gasoline by the U. S. Navy, however, is a more significant development.

Increasing activity in oil company financing indicates the extent to which working capital has been "frozen" in slowly moving oil inventories. While huge "quotational" profits are being shown, the actual cash gains are not realizable until the goods have actually been sold at the higher prices.

POSITION VACANT

SALESMAN, Drapery and/or Outfitting, wanted. References as to ability and character required. Apply to General Manager, Hall & Holtz, Ld.

ARE YOU ILL?

Are you ill with any disease due to impure blood such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Abscesses, Boils, Sores, Eruptions, Piles, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, &c.? If so, don't delay, start taking Clarke's Blood Mixture to-day and the experience of thousands whom it has permanently cured will soon be yours. It cures by reason of its great blood purifying properties. Over 50 years success. Pleasant to take. Of all Chemists, &c.

Clarke's Blood Mixture

CURES ALL SKIN AND BLOOD DISEASES.

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COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.—At the approaching annual general meeting of shareholders the Directors will recommend that a dividend be declared for the past half year at the rate of 14 per cent. annum and a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share free of income tax (equal to 20½% per annum).

The Semambu Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 24, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 16 to 24, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—The 32nd Ordinary General Meeting will be held at No. 14 Nanking Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, May 1, 1924, at 11 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 24 to May 1, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Tebong Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 4th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, May 1, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

A dividend of 5 candareens per share will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 24 to May 1, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Senawang Rubber Estates Co. (1921), Ltd.—The 4th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 29, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 23 to 29, 1924, both days inclusive.

Share Report for Week Ending April 18, 1924.

No. 24/15

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cent. 171 & 174.

Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building,
12 The Bund.
Post Office Box No. 244, Shanghai.

Business in the local share market has continued very dull during the past week and beyond an insignificant enquiry for Debenture stocks and sound local investment shares the market is lifeless.

London quotations indicate dull conditions in their market also and the following are the latest prices cabled to us this week:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 71. 0. 0	(Middle Price)
" " F.I.	69. 0. 0	(Sellers) ex B.R.I.S.
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co., "B"	3. 9. 10½	(Middle Price)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ld. Fully Pd.	1. 9. 4½	
" 10/- Pd.	0. 13. 6	(Buyers)
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2. 14. 7½	(Middle Price)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	4. 10. 6	(Buyers)
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0. 3. 1½	(Middle Price)
Mexican Eagle Ord Shares	0. 18. 7½	"

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/2¼.

Shanghai, April 17, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

APRIL		12th Cash	12th June	14th Cash	14th June	15th Cash	15th June	16th Cash	16th June	17th Cash	17th June	18th Cash	18th June
RUBBERS													
Anglo-Dutch Plant., Ld.	Tls.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Semambu Rub. Est., Ld.	,,	..	..	..	..	0.85	..	..	..	..	..		
Tanah Merah Rub. Est., Ld.	,,	..	..	..	..	0.50	..	..	..	0.50	..		
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS													
Hall & Holtz Ld.	$	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..		
Langkats (single)	Tls.	..	..	..	..	8½	..	..	..	..	..		
S'hai Exploration & D.Co., Ld.	,,	..	..	..	..	10½	11	..	..	..	..		
Langkats (combined)	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	25½	..	..	..		
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ld.	,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	..		
COTTONS													
DEBENTURES													
S. M. C. 1922, 7% Debs.	Tls.	105	..	105	..	..	..	105	..	105	..		
,, 1923, 6% ,,	,,	..	..	99	..	99	..	..	..	99	..		
,, 1921, 8% ,,	,,	..	..	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
,, 1911, 6% ,,	,,	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	..	..		
,, 1907, 6% ,,	,,	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	..	..		
,, 1916, 6% ,,	,,	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	..	..		

18th: BANK HOLIDAY (GOOD FRIDAY)

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

April 29, Tuesday. May 27, Tuesday. June 24, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, APRIL 17, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Authorized Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. London	£ 132½								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	$ 1160	1165	1180	61) 400,000	H $125	a H $3,379,314 c H $64,494,394	Dec.	Final £3 & Bonus £2 (mkg. £8 1922) less I/T.	25-2-24
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. .. London	£ 19 [illegible]/16			600,000	£5	a £222,201 c £3,800,000	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.) free of I/T, 1922	5-4-24
INSURANCE.									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $ 240			55) 200,000	d £4	av £437,386 b £60,500 c £3,574,054	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20% ex 1922 Work a/c	26-5-23
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T 138			10,000	e £5	av T610,687 c T4,782,885	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-6-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld.	$ 27	28½		21) 250,000	$10	av $1,921,996 aw $2,408,636 c $4,063,242	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T 22			1) 50,000	T20	av T518,346 aw T204,093 c T9,361	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $ 730			10,000	f H $100	av H $2,172,375 c H $6,649,892	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ 550	525		8,000	g H $50	au H $515,163 c H $4,307,811	Dec.	H $35 ex 1922 Working a/c.	28-3-24
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ 145			20,000	h H $20	av H $1,328,926 c H $5,523,650	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c.	25-5-23
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F 500			11,000	F500	a F101,368 c F3,784,330	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
SHIPPING.									
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld. 6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		2) 120,000	£5	a £2,167	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld. def. ord.	H $ 140			2) 120,000	£5	c £2,103,182			
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. ord.	'B'			56) 30,000,000	£1				
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. 5% cum. pref.	£	£4:10:6		21) 300,000	£10	a* £2,029,056	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. 7% cum. 2nd pref.	£			57) 10,000,000	£1	c £5,000,000			
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. ord.	T 85	87		20,000	T25	a T23,575	Dec.	Final Ord. T4.50 (mkg. T7, 1923)	11-3-24
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. 7% pref.	T 51½	52½		10,000	T50	c T410,000		Final Pref. T1.75 (mkg. T3.50, 1923)	11-3-24
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld.	T 95		95	47) 55,700	T75	a T102,535 c T1,948,000	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'poa Dock Co., Ld.	H $ 153			‡ 60,000	H $50	a H $319,796 c H $4,081,698	Dec.	Final H $5 (mkg. H $9, 1923)	20-3-24
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. ord.	T 5½	5½		42) 500,000	T5	a T59,500 b T300,000 c T1,311,045	Dec.	Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-24
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. 8% pref.	T 4.95	5		65) 500,000	T5			Pref. T0.40 1923	10-2-24
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld.	T 192½	190	192	‡31) 40,000	T100	a T3,480 b T200,000 c T1,035,261	Dec.	Final T10 (mkg. T13, 1923) [illegible]	4-3-24
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld.	H $ 168		167	80,000	H $50	a H $290,819 b H $300,000 c H $59,240	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3, 1923	26-2-24
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld.	£ 12/-			24) 500,060	G. $10	——	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T 20½	20½		†‡64) 2,000,000	£1	a £10,537 c £252,000	June	Final 8½% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T, 1922-1923	11-12-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. London	£	£3:3:6	£3:11:3						
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.	H $ 5			200,000	£1	a £23,613 c £4,873	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	T 118	118½	120	‡) 78,000	T50	a T34,410 b T275,000 c H $2,289,317	Dec.	Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1923)	21-3-24
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. (New Reg.)	H $ 117		117	240,000	H $25	a H $157,886 b H $250,000 c H $6,000,000	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 shares (mkg. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
Humphreys Est. & Finance Co., Ld.	H $ 24			150,000	H $10	a H $158,299 b H $50,000 c H $121,488	Dec	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.30, 1923	11-2-24
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			3,674	T20	a T2,946 c T7,000	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	T 115½	119		‡23) T18,000	T100	a T9,269 b T20,000 c T375,000	Feb.	Final T4.50 (mkg. T8, 1923-24)	3-4-24
Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	H $ 20 old / 13 new			33) 500,000	H $10	a H $85,238 a H $5,203,767	Dec.	Final H $0.75 & Bonus H $0.50 on 375,000 shares (mkg. H $2 (old))	22-3-24
Carlton, Ld.	T 53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $ 100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware 1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. ord.	G $ 19	12½		**100,000	G $10	a			
Raven Trust Co., Inc. pref.	G $ 10	10			G $10			Ord. Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 5½ ¾		5½	70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.25			‡62) 500,000	T1	....	Oct.	....	....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld.	T 2		2	12) 400,000	10s.	a T30,242	Dec.	T0.20, 1923	1-4-24
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 5.55	5		4) 500,000	10s.	a T12,442 c T372,167	Dec.	Final T0.30 (mkg. T0.55, 1923)	15-4-24
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 21		22	27) 30,000	T10	a T16,223 b T22,000 c T69,960	Sept.	Final T2.00, (mkg. T2½) 1922-23	28-12-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld.	T 0.75			400,000	T1	a T22,777	Dec.	T0.05, 1923	11-4-24
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld.	T 1.12½			500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75			23) 500,000	T1	a T3,505	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 0.85			400,000	T0.90	a T17,973 c T12,000	Dec.		
Chempodak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld.	T 4½			39) 35,000	£1	a (Loss) T13,435	Oct.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1923)	3-4-24
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1½			135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld.	T 2.12½		2.10	25) 500,000	2s.—T0.75	a T16,988 c T60,000	Dec.	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1½		1.80	19) 350,000	T1	a T2,775		Final T0.15 (mkg. T0.21, 1923)	9-4-24
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld.	T 7½			†48) 750,000	£1; 450,000 5s; 200,000	a c	Dec.	T0.10, 1923	16-4-24
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est. Ld.	T 11			8) 85,000	£1 at 2/3 [illegible]	a T17,215 c T2,685		2s. less I/T 4s. 7½d in £ (Coupon 21)	15-4-24
Kali Glidik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T 6.15	6		70,000	T5		Dec.	Final T0.75 (mkg. T1.25, 1923)	18-4-24
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld.	T 9.40			35) 15,000	T10	a T6,977 c T4,023	....	Incorporated 1923	....
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T 4			25,000	T10	a T3,908 b T30,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1922 Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23 17-7-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld.	T 0.75			390,000	T1	a (Loss) T38,263	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T 12	11½		20) 70,000	£1 at T8.60	a T12,946 c T62,599	June	....	....
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 5½			60,000	T10	a T15,410 b T45,000	Dec.	T1 (mkg. T1.50, 1923)	8-3-24
Pengkalan Durian Estates (1921), Ld.	T 1.05			26) 150,000	T1	a (Loss) T8,791	Apr.	T0.05, 1919-20	5-8-20
[illegible] Rubber Estate	[illegible]			29) [illegible]	T5	T18,127	Mar.	Int. dvd. T0.05 a/c., 1923-24	[illegible]
[illegible] Rubber & Te[illegible]	[illegible]					[illegible]	Oct.	T0.3[illegible] 1922-23	[illegible]

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RUBBER AUCTIONS.

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—

Singapore, April 17, 1924.

Spot or April	41⅞ cents
May/June	42 ,,
July/Sept.	43 ,,
July/Dec.	43¾ ,,

Market very quiet, nothing doing.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS		Term in years	Last business recorded*		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1905	6 to 20	5-4-24	T97	d 320,000	6	June-Dec.
	1907	do.	13-4-24	T99	507,000	6	do.
	1908	do.	11-3-24	T99	650,000	6	do.
	1909	do.	15-3-23	T99	300,000	6	do.
	1910	do.	17-4-24	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911	10 to 30	15-4-24	T99	350,000	6	do.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6	do.
	1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	750,300	6	do.
	1914	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1915	10 to 30	14-4-24	T90	900,000	5½	do.
	1916	do.	11-3-24	T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1918	do.	16-4-24	T98½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1919	10	18-10-23	T103	567,300	7	do.
	1920	10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,300	7	do.
		10	8-4-24	T103	2,240,000	7	do.
	1921	10 to 30	29-3-24	£104	£753,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1922	do.	14-4-24	T110	T5,096,400	8	do.
	1923	do.	16-4-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
		do.	17-4-24	T99	T6,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915	do.	5-3-24	T90	350,000	5½	do.
	1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	a T800,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922	do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
	1922	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1901	do.	2-4-23	T94	e 300,000	6	do.

LOANS		Term in years	Last business recorded*		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909	do.	1-4-24	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,,	do.	23-3-24	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
		do.			250,000	6	Jan-July
	1912	do.	2-4-24	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,,	do.	11-1-24	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
		do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914	do.	22-3-23	T98	750,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916	5 to 25	3-4-23	T88	750,000	5½	do.
	1922	do.	12-2-23	T98	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922	do.	10-1-24	T98	500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907	20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901	Perpetual			139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	1914	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	1906	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911	do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ld.	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	h 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923	25	14-4-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915	10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ld.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing: Redeemed or Unissued:—b—Tls.65,100; c—Tls.51,100; d—Tls.34,100; e—Tls.68,500; f—Tls.262,400; g—Tls.139,800; h—Tls.12,300; i—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 31-12-23	1923 Jan.	1923 Feb.	1923 Mar.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d	68,000	22,000	18,000	17,000	125,000
Amherst (New) ..	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,412	80,692	90,751	*4.89d.	19,020	8,214	8,475	14,662	50,371
Anglo-Dutch ..	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	540,000	600,000	8.45d.	..	64,000	50,000	65,000	179,000
Anglo-Java ..	£250,000	Dec.	1,524,711	1,663,450	..	6.70d	..	184,000	164,100	187,000	535,100
Ayer Tawah ..	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam ..	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,510	217,822	185,793	9.01d.	..	12,500	11,500	15,000	39,006
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	222,682	25,500	No.	..	248,182
Bute	,, 500,000	Dec.	230,067	177,850	159,516	11.11d.	..	17,530	16,800	13,600	47,700
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	340,794	267,627	..	8.40d.	..	27,200	23,300	9,500	60,000
Chempedak ..	£35,000	Oct.	145,769	163,063	..	1/5.42d.	30,700	14,050	4,400	1,000	50,100
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	102,014	10,500	9,700	11,800	134,014
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	660,899	645,778	761,500	7.47d.	..	53,000	56,779	44,437	149,216
Dominion ..	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,159	324,516	308,867	9.63d.	..	28,032	27,654	15,999	71,685
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	938,000	1,215,000	1/0 1/12 d.	..	88,000	78,000	66,000	232,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	656,524	622,325	..	6.25d.	..	68,300	60,900	72,300	201,500
Kapayang ..	150,000	Dec.	189,239	116,710	..	†26.90	..	10,592	8,315	7,636	26,543
Karan	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	60,067	8,146	6,448	4,915	79,576
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 300,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	160,918	29,156	26,919	19,180	236,103
Kroewoek ..	£70,000	Dec.	449,000	583,881	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	59,000	55,000	59,000	173,000
Langkat ..	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	242,589	943,000	975,000	Glds.0.28	179,300	92,500	71,500	70,000	413,300
Padang ..	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	229,232	..	10½d.	120,500	19,700	11,100	8,000	159,900
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	2,780	..	2,780
Permata ..	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,209	..	0/8½d.	17,585	8,080	6,023	..	31,668
Repah ..	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,584	217,087	..	..	..	17,400	8,700	15,900	42,000
Samagaga ..	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	120,509	8,500	11,000	10,500	150,509
Semambu ..	,, 300,000	Dec.	164,105	245,596	158,264	0/9.37d.	..	13,400	13,400	7,600	34,400
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	272,500	275,100	..	*†7.35d.	..	..	14,500	16,400	30,900
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	245,542	..	8.12d.	67,625	24,496	17,259	17,024	126,104
S'hai-Klebang ..	,, 315,000	Dec.	126,106	100,034	..	11.35d.	..	8,740	8,000	..	16,700
S'hai-Malay ..	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	288,816	408,961	..	..	22,782	21,474	16,254	60,510
S'hai Pahang ..	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	100,973	16,432	14,475	14,846	146,726
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	171,213	147,112	..	9.52d.	..	14,400	13,300	7,400	35,100
S'hai-Sumatra ..	,, 600,000	Oct.	661,339	679,716	650,000	Glds.0.38	111,341	61,110	51,170	43,537	267,158
Sua-Manggis ..	,, 250,000	Dec.	184,000	157,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala ..	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	†7.20	14,010	8,892		..	22,902
Sungei Duri ..	£10,000	June	308,073	296,568	229,000	11.61d.	126,409	23,698	22,272	10,048	182,427
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 230,000	Dec.	107,011	103,689	99,000	*†30	..	8,181	6,572		14,756
Tanah Merah ..	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	231,900	21,900	22,200	24,700	303,700
Tebong ..	750,000	Jan.	630,838	723,000	717,725	0/7.66d.	..	..	64,000	66,090	130,000
Ziangbo ..	£150,000	Dec.	511,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	67,500	58,200	68,000	183,700

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expense. † Straits $ cents.

[top of table torn]	T	0.60				..0	T1	a T8,744 c T20,000	Sept	T0.05, 1922-23	12-12-23
See Kee Rubber Estates (1918), Ld.	T	0.75				100,000	T1	a Loss T32,626	June		
Semambu Rubber Ests., Ld.	T	0.85				300,000	T1	a T10,425 c T20,000	Dec.	(T0.10, 1922 Interim T0.05, 1923	20-4-23 30-10-23
Senawang Rubber Ests. (ord. Co. (1921), Ld. (12% Cum. Pref.	T	0.82½			63) 67)	300,000 160,000	T1 T1	c (Loss) T20,075	Jan.	....	....
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ld.	T	0.75			34)	400,000	T1	a T1,183	Sept	T0.05, 1923	27-12-23
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50			13)	315,000	T1	a T12,023	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	24-3-20
S'ha Malay Rubber Estates, Ld. ord	T	3				30,000	T10	a T621	Dec.	(Ord. T0.60 for 9 months ended 31/12/16	2-5-17
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T	9			22)	30,000	T10			Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/22	31-10-23
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.75				290,095	T1	(Loss) T1,213	June	Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17)	12-10-17
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.60				325,000	T1	a (Loss) T10,352	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/22	31-3-17
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld.	T	105	101]		7)	30,000	T20	a (Loss) 325,810 c T312,170	Oct.	T2, 1918-19	1-4-20
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3			30)	56,000	T5	a T7,454 c T25,000	Dec.	T0.35, 1923	18-4-24
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.80	0.85]		‡5)	100,000	T1	a T4,636 c T10,000	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17	12-7-17
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	7½	6			40,000	£1 at T8.50	a T22,768	June	T0.85, 1922-23	12-10-23
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld.	T	0.50				200,000	T1	a (Loss) T857	Dec.	T0.08, 1919	20-5-20
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.50	0.45		32)	750,000	T1	a T31,851 c T5,737	Mar.	Interim T0.05 1916-17 (Final, Nil)	7-12-17
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1.05		1	‡54)	750,000	T1	a (Loss) T13,874	Jan.	....††	....
Ziangbo Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2½			32)	300,000	10s.	a T17,851 c T3,213	Dec.	T0.25, 1923	8-4-24
COTTONS, ETC.											
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (ord. / 8% cum. pref.)	T T	11½ 105	11½ 106		15) 43)	1,000,000 10 000	T5 T100	a T3,257 b T1,400,000 c T2,802,920	Dec.	Ord. T0.55, 1923 Pref. T8, 1923	5-3-24 5-3-24
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	T	8	5			80,000	T10	a (Loss) T36,057 b T120,000 c T7,612	Dec.	Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)	8-3-22
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ord. / prof.	T T	5		4.50	60) 3)	500,000 5,000	T3 T100	a (Loss) T98,590 b T200,000 c T2,551,760	Dec.	Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)	25-3-22
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Bosboku K.K.)	T	41 old 36 new			(‡	80,000 40,000	T50 T50	a T50,375 c T1,270,000	June	T3.50 1922-23	24-8-23
INDUSTRIAL.											
British-American Tobacco Co., Ld. (ord. / 5% cum. pref.)	£		£5 3/16	£5 5/16	66)	18,000,000 4,500,000	£1 £1	a £3,531,846 c £2,251,649	Sept.	Final Ord. 1922-23, 9% (mkg. 25%) free of I/T	11-1-24
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350				5,000	T100	a T161,833 b T300,000 c T2,100,000	Feb.	T8, 1922-23	31-5-23
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	248				20,000	H $100	a H $40,764 b H $600,000 c H1,200,000	Dec.	H $10, 1923	1-4-24
Gordon & Co., Ltd.	T	25			37)	6,000	T25	a T22,319 c T140,015		Div. T2.50 & Bonus 2½% 1923-24	‡15-4-24
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	34		27 old $10 new		400,000	H $7.50	a H $93,347 c H $1,050,000	Dec.	Final H $1.50 (mkg. H $2, 1923)	4-3-24
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	8½ (comb. T26½)	(comb T26½)	(comb. T)		200,000	Gs.10	a (Loss) T158,433 c T190,164	Oct.	T0.50, 1918-19	30-3-20
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.	T	6½	6.40			250,000	T5	a T35,698 c T300,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1923	5-3-24
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.	T	10½	10½			250,000	T5	a (Loss) T13,341	Dec.	....	....
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5			10)	6,000	T20	a T6,941 c T70,000	Dec.	....	....
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10			11)	25,000	T10	a T3,130 c T30,000	Dec.	10%, 1921	24-6-22
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	41	41		‡)	24,000	T50	a T21,325 b T50,000 c T655,241	Dec.	T4.00, 1923	11-4-24
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	150	145		‡9)	60,063	£20	a T24,475 b T75,000 c T1,770,985	Dec.	(Final 10s./- (at Exchg. 3/2½=T3.09) mkg. 20s./-, 1923	4-4-24
STORES.											
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	6			‡16)	28,000	$20	a b c $116,937	Feb.	$2, 1917-18	1-5-18
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	30				1,200	$60	a $10,697 c $26,000	Dec.	$6, 1922	12-5-23
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.	$	50			17)	10,000	$50	a $20,282 c $323,195	Mar.	(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23) Int. 6%, 1923-24	2-6-23 30-11-23
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11			‡30)	30,000	$20	a $37,633 c $210,000	Feb.	$1.60, 1922-22	3-5-22
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	102	106½		‡)	2,500	$100	a $5,539 b $20,000 c $250,000		$8, 1922-23	24-5-23
MISCELLANEOUS.											
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	T	13		12		10,000	T10	a (Loss) T26,956 c T119,293	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	30-12-22
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B" London	T £1	16½	16½ £2:13:0	£2:16:3		40,000	£1	a £17,022 c £114,315	Dec.	(1st Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupon 23) 2nd Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupno 24) both less I/T at 4/7½ in £	1-10-23 1-2-24
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld.	T	50				5,400	T50	a T21,118 c T220,000		T5, 1923	16-4-24
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25				3,003	T50		Apr.	T1 50 1913-14	31-3-15
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.	T	76½	78		‡19)	40,000	T50	a T10,285 b T70,000 c T920,016	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23	31-5-23
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100				940	$100	a $109,513 b $9,000 c $21,101	Mar.	$10, 1922-23	5-7-23

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability £8 per sh.
e ,, £10 ,,
f ,, ,, T£150 ,,
g ,, ,, H $200 ,,
h ,, ,, H $ 80 ,,
i ,, ,, Tls. 25 ,,
w Working Account 1923
x Working Account 1922
y Working Account 1921
† Registered; or Bearer (idem. "B").
** Issued Capital; 7% Cum. Pref. 24,461 shares; Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

‡ Debentures Issues also.
‡‡ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* Subject to E. P. D. and Corpn. Tax.
* Contingent liability for Interest on 12% Cum. Pref. Shares of Tls. 5,989

1—14,000 sh' unis'd.
2—70,411 ,,
3— 5,000 ,,
4— 4,000 ,,
5—19,182 ,,
6—50,000 ,,
7—10,761 ,,
8—10,000 ,,
9—16,470 sh. unis'd.
10—500 ,,
11—15,200 ,,
12—50,000 ,,
13—1,387 ,,
14—3,063 ,,
15—100,000 ,,
16—1,662 ,,
17—3,832 ,,
18—5,580 ,,
19—187,330 ,,
20—15,000 ,,
21—100,000 ,,
22—2,620 ,,
23—5 000 ,,
24—76,810 ,,
25—125,000 ,,
26—60,000 sh' unis'd
27—8,121 ,,
28—200,000 ,,
29—4,683 ,,
30—2,000 ,,
31—4,000 ,,
32—50,000 ,,
33—125,000 ,,
34—102,570 ,,
35—200 ,,
36—189 000 ,,
37—1,443 ,,
39—7,695 ,,
*42—290,000 ,,
43—1,000 ,,
(Not to be issued for less than 930 ea.
47—500 sh. unis'd.
48—100,000 ,,
49—5,644 ,,
50—8,178 ,,
54—40,000 ,,
55—89,000 ,,
56—10,634,846 ,,
57—5,000,000 ,,
60—16,000 ,,
61—240,000 ,,
62—401,055 ,,
63—15,000 ,,
64—600 000 ,,
65—200,000 ,,
66—1,953,930 ,,
67—66,057 ,,

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions.

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Comany Meetings

(Continued from Page 98.)

safe and everything running on economical lines."

On Hendra the work of the estate has carried along efficiently and there is nothing special to report. The smoke house was burnt down during December, the building and contents being fully covered by insurance. During the erection of a new smoke House, a vacant one on Sungei Kruit Estate has been kindly placed at our disposal.

THE PROSPECTS FOR 1924.

With regard to the current year's prospects, I find it difficult owing to the present uncertainty of the market to express a definite opinion. With rubber at its present price the estate can produce at a fair margin of profit but I am afraid we cannot hope for better prices until the co-operation of the Dutch East Indies to support restriction is secured.

The directors wish to express their appreciation of the good work done by the managers and staffs, also to the visiting agent for the good care of our interests.

I will now propose the first resolution, but before doing so I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions shareholders may wish to ask.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. G. Grayrigge seconded that the report and accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1923, as presented be accepted.—Carried unamimunsly

It was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. A. W. Burkill: "That the following recommendation as to appropriation of balance at credit of Profit & Loss Account be accepted:—

Pay a Dividend of $0.10 per share (10 per cent.)	$16,667.00
Furniture	1,520.35
Write off Bullocks & Carts	14.12
Write off Rubber Factory	1.00
Write off Plant & Machinery	1.00
Write off Wells & Water	1.00
Pay Bonus to Estate Managers	1,000.00
Carry forward to next year's Accounts	2,775.36
	$21,979.83

The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of Mr. Burkill, seconded by Mr. W. Mellor, Mr. G. Grayrigge was re-elected a director of the company.

On the proposition of Mr. A. N. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Chun Tu-san, it was agreed: "That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-elected Auditors to the Company at an annual remuneration of $400 for Shanghai and Ipoh."—Carried unanimously.

REPORTS are current in Peking that a band of Russian pedlars, selling Russian blankets and stockings, are spies of Marshal Chang Tso-lin. They are said to be collecting information regarding the movements and organization of Chihli troops. All of the alleged spies are thought to be former White troops. Orders have been issued by Marshal Wu Pei-fu that the authorities at Loyang, Chenchow, Tsinan, Kai-feng and other military centres watch the movement of these foreigners.

ADDRESSING the Engineering Society of China on Tuesday Mr. Karl Bryhn gave an account of investigations, studies and tests regarding wharf designs made by the Conservancy Board's engineering staff and himself at various times and in connexion with the Shanghai Harbour Investigation, 1921-22. The type of wharf discussed by the lecturer was that for an open dock. Although the latter costless, the necessary cost of locks exceeded the saving in other respects. Shanghai's harbour investigators had definitely recommended docks of the open type first of all, said the speaker. The definition of a "deep draught wharf" was a wharf to accommodate ocean-going vessels requiring a berth of say, 26 ft. and more at low water.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING

Once More No Quorum for the Special Resolutions: Support for the Council in All Directions: Big Majority for Waterworks Resolution

No great interest was displayed in the Ratepayers' Meeting which took place in the Town Hall at 4.30 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon The attendance was smaller than on several occasions in recent years, and owing to lack of a quorum the special resolutions which were on the agenda could not be brought forward, only half the required number of voters being present.

Sir Skinner Turner was invited to take the chair, and on the platform were Messrs. S. Fessenden, W. P. Lambe, E. F. Mackay, V. G. Lyman, P. L. Knight and S. Sakuragi, Councillors; Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, Secretary of Council; and Mr. E. L. Allen, who was appointed secretary of the meeting

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Proceedings

Mr. S. FESSENDEN—Ladies and gentlemen, the hour appointed for the Ratepayers' Meeting having passed I have very much pleasure in moving

Resolution I.—That our esteemed fellow-ratepayer, Sir Skinner Turner, be invited to take the Chair.

Mr. W. P. LAMBE—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

Mr. FESSENDEN—Will all those in favour please raise their hands? . . . Any opposed? . . . Unanimous.

Sir Skinner Turner then takes the chair.

Mr. S. FESSENDEN—I beg to propose

Resolution II.—That Mr. E. L. Allen be appointed Secretary to the meeting.

Mr. W. P. LAMBE—I have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN—It has been proposed and seconded that Mr. E. L. Allen be appointed Secretary of the Meeting. Will those in favour hold up the right hand? ——Against ——Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I will now read the notice convening the meeting:

The undersigned hereby give notice:—

That a Public Meeting of Ratepayers will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, April 16, at 4.30 p.m., precisely, to devise ways and means of raising the requisite funds for Municipal purposes, and to pass resolutions in reference thereto and to deliberate and decide upon other Municipal matters and business. At such meeting the accounts of the Council for the year ending December 31, 1923, will be submitted for the sanction and approval of the Ratepayers.

That a Special Meeting of Ratepayers will be held in the Town Hall during an adjournment of the above meeting to consider and approve resolutions upon various matters whereof due notice will be given.

This notice is signed by the Consuls of the various Treaty Powers.

The CHAIRMAN—I will now call upon the Chairman of the Council to move Resolution No. III.

Mr. FESSENDEN—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to propose

Resolution III.—That the annexed rules of procedure be adopted for use at this meeting and remain in force until the next annual meeting.

Mr. W. P. LAMBE—I have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN—It has been proposed and seconded that the rules of procedure be adopted at this meeting and remain in force until the next annual meeting. Will those in favour please signify in the usual way?——Against?——Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I will now call upon Mr. Fessenden to move Resolution No. IV.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

Mr. FESSENDEN—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, before proceeding with this Resolution, I desire to deal briefly with a few outstanding matters to which your attention should be directed.

In the first place, I may mention that we have continued the policy during the year, of keeping you as fully posted as possible on Municipal activities through the medium of the Gazette. Those desiring further information will find a very complete record of Municipal affairs in the Annual Report, which was issued on March 19. The complete manner in which matters are dealt with in this publication will, I trust, save me the necessity of asking you to listen to any lengthy speech upon the year's work.

You will be pleased to know that our Volunteer Corps continues to maintain its numbers and discipline, whilst the year has seen the pleasing function of the presentation to the Corps of new Colours worked by ladies of Shanghai.

The Fire Brigade continues to develop as an all-motor Fire Brigade, and the total number of vehicles has reached the figure of 40. We think, therefore, that you may feel reasonably assured that the Settlement possesses a Brigade well equipped for the size of the Settlement.

The Police Force continues to maintain its highly efficient work in the policing of this Settlement, and forming as it does our first line of defence, I think we have every reason to be proud of this efficient body of men. In this connexion, I cannot pass without a word of renewed appreciation of the public spirited action of those members of the Community who continue to perform duty as Special Constables. They perform a duty, the value of which cannot be too highly appreciated, in the maintenance of order in the Settlement.

Our activities in the preservation of Public Health have reached a high level of attainment and the same may be said of the Council's schools, both foreign and Chinese, in which the number of children in attendance is well maintained.

Our Public Works Department as usual calls for a very large proportion of the total expenditure. The number of the public roads has not altered very materially since last year, but a great many important widenings have been carried out, and the programme of extensions adopted in 1921 is being pushed forward as rapidly as financial considerations permit.

The Traffic problem is our eternal question, which requires a large and expert staff to handle effectively. The Tramway question likewise is a problem which continues to engage our serious attention. I can only regret that, in spite of earnest endeavour to conclude the negotiations with the Tramway Company in respect to extensions, at the close of the year, although considerable progress had been made, negotiations had not then, nor have they now, reached a final settlement.

Four Special Commissions have been sitting during the year, to deal with the questions of Education, of the Supply of Pure Milk, of the Sale of Poisons, and of Child Labour in Factories. The three first named have concluded their labours, and your Council is engaged in examining their recommendations, with a view to the adoption of what may prove to be practicable. The fourth Commission, that of Child Labour in Factories, is still sitting.

The question of the control of public rickshas was a matter which came prominently before our notice during the year, and you will observe that we have reverted to the system of issuing licences as applied for, in order to allow of the operation of the law of supply and demand, since we have found that abuses result from artificial limitation in number.

During the year we have sanctioned trial services of omnibuses and pedicabs, and it is expected that before long these vehicles will be seen in the streets of Shanghai.

Our relations with the Chinese in our midst, while not entirely devoid of difficulty, have upon the whole been satisfactory, and we may take it as evidence of their respect for the law and order which we maintain that the native population of the Settlement continues to increase in numbers and appears well satisfied with conditions as it find them.

A good deal of the Council's time has been devoted to the Waterworks question, to which I will refer when introducing Resolution VII.

As regards departmental activities, I do not propose at the present time to make any detailed observations since those matters are fully dealt with in the respective sections of the annual report. Suffice it to say that the work of all departments has given satisfaction, and that the services rendered by the members of the Volunteer Corps and of the Police Reserves have continued to earn our very sincere appreciation and thanks.

The revision of the Standing Orders referred to by my predecessor last year has unfortunately had to be deferred pending certain matters of departmental reorganization which it will be the duty of the incoming Council to undertake. As a preliminary step to consideration of these matters, a room was set aside in the Administration Building for the use of the Chairman, and it may interest you to know that I have made a practice of attending this office for an hour or so each day for the purpose of conferring with the departmental heads This practice has given me an insight into the methods of administration which I hope will assist the incoming Council in solving the problems with which they will be faced.

Before turning to the question of finance I would like to thank, on behalf of the Council, those members of the community who have served on the various Committees and Commissions which we have appointed, thus giving us the benefit of their advice and experience in the conduct of affairs.

I now propose to say a few words on the Financial Statement of 1923.

FINANCE.

The report of the Treasurer and Comptroller opens with a statement that the surplus on the Ordinary Budget carried forward to this year amounts to Tls. 402,000. This can be regarded as satisfactory as it shows an increase over the figure estimated of Tls. 249,000. Our Ordinary Income exceeded the estimate by Tls. 139,000, while the Ordinary Expenditure incurred was Tls. 110,000 less than was anticipated. The Treasurer's report sets out in detail the results of departmental expenditure as compared with the estimates, and I do not propose to waste your time in accounting for the various differences that occur between the actual and estimated departmental figures.

Turning to the accounts relating to the Extraordinary Budget where a deficit of Tls. 142,000 was anticipated, you will note that the actual deficit brought forward amounts to no less than Tls. 712,000. At first sight this may appear somewhat alarming. Indeed, I notice that the editor of one of our leading newspapers, in a leader on the Annual Report, issued a friendly hint to the Council that it really must not incur expenditure not included in the Budget. Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can assure you that there is nothing to be alarmed about. What actually happened was that with two exceptions (which I will refer to later) the main headings of the Budget were in fact well under-spent. We were authorized to raise a Loan of Tls. 6,000,000, but only issued debentures totalling Tls. 4,479,800. Our Extraordinary Income was therefore one and a half millions short, and it is here that the explanation is to be found. Had the full amount of the Loan been raised, we should have allotted 3 millions instead of 2 millions to the Electricity Department, and the deficit would have been, say, Tls. 50,000 in excess of the figure we estimated.

In other words, Ladies and Gentlemen, that figure of Tls. 712,000 represents merely a shortage in income and has nothing whatever to do with, or is not, increased expenditure. As things are, the Tls. 1,000,000 required by the Electricity Department this year represents the amount they were short last year, and the deficit of Tls. 712,000 with which the year 1923 closed will also have to be found in 1924.

The only item of the Extraordinary Budget which I think calls for further comment is the expenditure on Roads. You will no doubt have noticed that the appropriation for acquiring land for new roads, widening existing roads, and for making-up, has been exceeded by a sum of Tls. 671,000, or Tls. 582,000 after making allowance for land transferred from Municipal properties, which is credited under another heading of the accounts. Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the one heading of the Budget which is extremely difficult to control. Advantage has to be taken of fortuitous circumstances such as a sale or transfer of property or rebuilding, in order to proceed with the extremely necessary road widenings. It is impossible to estimate with accuracy to cover this appropriation. We are satisfied that every precaution has been taken to keep expenditure within reasonable grounds, but it is as well that you should realize that more and more money will be required for these urgent and necessary public improvements.

The report of the Treasurer and Comptroller gives full details as to how we raised the debentures issued during the year totalling Tls. 4,479,800, or, including the Investment Bank allotment made on February 5 of this year (Tls. 440,200), a grand total of Tls. 4,920,000.

I cannot conclude without expressing the Council's appreciation of the services rendered by the Municipal Bank, which, since its foundation on September 1, 1919, has been largely instrumental in raising close upon Tls. 7,500,000. This is a very notable achievement when it is remembered how unsettled the money markets of the world have been during the years following the war.

With these remarks I propose

Resolution IV.—That the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1923, be passed.

Mr. W. P. LAMBE—I have very much pleasure in seconding that Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN—The Resolution has been duly proposed and seconded and is now open to discussion.—As no ratepayer wishes to say anything, I will put the Resolution to the meeting. It has been proposed by Mr. Fessenden and seconded by Mr. Lambe. All those in favour signify the same in the usual way—Those against?—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I call upon Mr. Fessenden to move the next resolution.

Mr. S. FESSENDEN—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, In introducing the Budget Resolution, I propose with your approval to give you a short outline of the various processes that the Estimates go through before they are finally placed before you for your approval. Towards the close of the year each department is required to prepare preliminary estimates of its requirements for the ensuing year. Those requirements are divided under two main headings, Ordinary and Extraordinary. The Ordinary Estimates of each department are forwarded to the Finance Department for examination, where they are closely scrutinised and tested with the object of determining whether they contain any items of an unusual character that may indicate a permanent addition to the activities of the department.

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The Extraordinary Estimates are prepared by each department in collaboration with the Public Works Department. In due course the departmental Committees consider the proposals of the heads of departments both under the Ordinary and Extraordinary classification. Representatives of the Public Works Department and the Finance Department attend these meetings to advise the Committees on any matters requiring further explanation. The Committees are not expected to concern themselves unduly with detail; their chief concern is with questions of policy. The Ordinary Estimates are then referred back to the Finance Department, where each item is examined and checked in detail, and the figures, where necessary, amended. A revised proof is then printed and, after final agreement with the department, is submitted for the formal approval of the Committee. In the meantime the departmental requirements under the heading of Extraordinary Expenditure are being scrutinised by the Commissioner of Public Works, who inserts a revised estimate of what he considers to be the cost of the proposals. Unfortunately the requirements of the departments are occasionally in outline only and difficulty is sometimes experienced by the Public Works Department in estimating the cost of a scheme which is not sufficiently defined. This is one of the reasons why the estimated cost of works is from time to time underspent or exceeded. The Council is aware of this weakness in the Budget system, and steps are being taken to tighten matters up. In due course the preliminary estimates of Extraordinary Expenditure are forwarded to the Finance Department, more or less in the form in which they are subsequently published. By this time the accounts for the past year are well in hand, and the Finance Department is able to form some idea of the surplus or deficit for which provision will need to be made in the following year. The two budgets of Ordinary and Extraordinary income and expenditure are then considered by the Finance Committee as a whole, and a decision is arrived at as to whether the existing rating basis is adequate as regards the Ordinary Budget, and as to whether or not, having regard to the conditions of the local money market, it is policy to recommend the Loan called for by the Extraordinary Budget, or to reduce it. More often than not the latter course is considered the more prudent, and then commences the Finance Committee's somewhat unpleasant duty of wielding the blue pencil.

The Budget now before you has undergone many vicissitudes, and is but a skeleton of the one that was submitted to the Finance Committee. In view of the prevailing uncertainty of the future trend of the local money market, and the possibility of a large sum being required for the purchase of the Waterworks, it was deemed expedient to limit the Loan to Tls. 5,000,000, with the result that many desirable public improvements have had to be postponed to another year. The problem before the Finance Committee was to effect a reduction of Tls. 900,000 in the Budget total while still allowing a sufficient sum for matters of public urgency. Among the more important items it was found necessary to delete may be mentioned the following: The reconstruction of the Chapoo Road Bridge, the provision of quarters for Indians at Sinza Police Station, improvements at the Hongkew Swimming Pool, and the swimming pool proposed for the Western District.

The preliminary estimates approved by the Works Committee called for a provision of just over Tls. 2,000,000 for road improvements, but after giving the question the fullest consideration the Finance Committee decided to reduce this amount to Tls. 1,500,000, which figure is 70 per cent. higher than the allowance last year, and is over treble the appropriation for 1922. This decision was duly approved by the Council on the grounds of financial expediency. You must not infer from this that the Council thinks any drastic change is necessary in its policy of improving the roads of the Settlement, but simply that expenditure on this very necessary object will need to be spread over a greater number of years.

It is of interest to note that of the total extraordinary expenditure proposed to be incurred this year, practically half is required for the completion of works for which approval was given in former budgets.

Our ordinary income, including the amount brought forward from last year, is expected to show a total of Tls. 8,224,000, or Tls. 795,000 over that realized during 1923. On the other hand, departmental expenditure and provision for interest and loan redemption is expected to cost Tls. 991,000 more than the amount spent in 1923. These figures clearly indicate the necessity for zealously watching and controlling the growth of departmental expenditure.

Perhaps one of the most difficult matters the Council has to deal with is the salaries paid to the staff. The Council has realized for some time past that the method under which each Committee is given more or less discretionary power to fix the salaries in the departments under its care is by no means ideal, and although the decisions of the departmental Committees are invariably subject to revision by the Finance Committee, it often happens in practice that inequalities of treatment occur which subsequently need adjustment. In order to provide for the proper co-ordination of all staff matters, the Council has recently established a Staff Committee to whom has been entrusted the responsible duty of adjudicating on all staff questions. Recommendations on staff matters will in future be considered in the first place by the Staff Committee instead of by the Departmental Committee and will then come direct to the Council. This policy is one that has been in operation in England and elsewhere for some years, and we think and hope it will lead to good results.

We have no notice of any questions, but I am prepared to explain as far as I can any points upon which explanation may be desired, but first Mr. Scott will address you briefly on Electricity matters.

With the Chairman's permission I will ask Mr. Scott to address the meeting.

Mr. F. R. Scott—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: The Report and Accounts which have been available for some days call for very little explanation and comment on my part.

The Accounts shew that against an estimated net profit of Tls. 1,398,951, the Undertaking actually made a net profit of Tls. 1,514,883, a difference on the right side of Tls. 115,932. Of this very handsome profit Tls. 900,000 will be contributed to Municipal Funds, which will then have benefited from the working of this Department, since 1916, to the total amount of Tls. 3,760,000. Tls. 602,800 of our profits will be transferred to General Reserve in conformity with the established principle of bringing this Reserve Account to 10 per cent. of the capital outlay on plant which has been actually in commission.

This result appears thoroughly satisfactory, but is not as completely satisfactory as we would wish. A year ago the Chairman of this Committee stated that the Department was feeling the results of the industrial depression in Shanghai, and said that the estimates for the year were framed on a conservative basis. That we have achieved a better result than estimated is due to the conservatism of that estimate, and not, I am sorry to say, to any lifting of the industrial depression. On the contrary, conditions are quite unimproved and we have again to be very conservative in framing our estimates, and we estimate that in 1924 we should make a net profit of Tls. 1,354,800,—nearly Tls. 200,000, less than the profit actually made in 1923. Our expectation of a reduced profit does not mean that we look for a reduction in our sales of electricity, for as a matter of fact, we look for an increase of Tls. 935,851 in our gross revenue. Unfortunately this very considerable estimated increase in revenue is not in proportion to the great extensions of our Plant which are on the point of completion. These extensions were ordered at an expensive time, and their completion will greatly increase our charges for interest and depreciation. Thus, in 1924 we estimate that the gross profit which will be made on the additional sales of electricity will be more than balanced by the increase in these two items, and we have to estimate for a reduced net profit.

For some years the Department has struggled to get ahead of its load, and has had to work in an overloaded condition, a state of things highly profitable, but dangerous. Our large extensions of plant were ordered in the course of this struggle, and had the load continued to increase at an equal rate, they would have only left us a comfortable margin of security. The industrial depression has turned this into an uncomfortable surplus of plant, and we are now in the position of our load having to grow up to our plant. That it will do this in a reasonable time I think there is no doubt whatever, but while it is growing it will not be possible to make the same rate of profit as was made on the smaller and overloaded plant. Most of the factors in the problem are out of our control, but on the technical side I can assure you that our Engineer-in-Chief and his staff are continually and strenuously working towards greater efficiency and economy, and on the business side, that every possible effort is made to increase our sales.

The undertaking has been built up on sound lines and it is to-day so sound that the worst result we need anticipate, from the fact that the plant proves to have been too heavily extended, at too expensive a time, is reduced rate profit for a few years.

Of the loans of Tls. 3,000,000, sanctioned for this Department last year, only Tls. 2,000,000 was actually issued, and we now owe an overdraft at the Bank and temporary loans from the Council Tls. 1,290,620. We do not require any further loan this year other than the Tls. 1,000,000 which was short issued last year.

I must refer briefly to the disastrous accident which occurred last November at Riverside when the new 20,000—K. W. Parsons Turbine burst, and caused the greatly regretted loss of several valuable lives, and serious injuries to one of our foreign staff. I would take this opportunity of again expressing the sympathy of this Committee and the staff with the relatives of the killed. As shown in the Report full investigation by the Makers' representatives shewed that the accident was due to a defect in the machine, which was quite undiscoverable except by the self-revelation of the accident. The turbine will be replaced by Messrs. Parsons and we hope that in the end there will be no financial loss to the Department from this accident. As it happens, we do not at the moment need this turbine and we do not expect to be inconvenienced by losing the use of it for about two years.

I would like to conclude by expressing the Committee's appreciation of the work of Mr. Aldridge, our Engineer-in-Chief & Manager and the whole of his staff for whose loyal co-operation and keen interest in their work our thanks are due.

Mr. Fessenden—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I now beg to propose ►

Resolution V.—That the estimated expenditure for 1924, contained in the Budget proposed by the retiring Council, together with the recommendations attached thereto, be approved and adopted, and that the Council be and it is hereby authorized to impose, collect and recover the rates, taxes, dues and fees recommended therein, and to raise, should it be considered expedient to do so, upon such terms and in such manner as the Council may in its discretion think fit, a sum not exceeding Tls. 5,000,000 or the equivalent of this sum, for the purposes defined in the estimate of Extraordinary Expenditure.

Mr. W. P. Lambe—I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Chairman—Resolution V has been duly proposed and seconded and is now before the meeting.—If no ratepayer wishes to say anything to that resolution, I will put it to the meeting. You have just heard it read by Mr. Fessenden and I do not think you want to hear it read again by me. Those in favour of Resolution No. V kindly signify the same in the usual way—Those against?—Carried.

The Chairman—Ladies and Gentlemen, with your sanction, we will take Resolution No. VII before Resolution No. VI, the resolution dealing with the Waterworks before the resolution dealing with the Telephone Company. I will now call upon Mr. Fessenden to move Resolution No. VII.

Mr. Fessenden—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, You will notice that Resolution 7 is divided into four clauses, and that the first three deal with the proposal that the undertaking be purchased by the Ratepayers. I propose, with your approval, to take the somewhat unusual course of deferring my remarks on these clauses to a later stage of this speech, and to focus your attention for the time being on the fourth and last clause.

You will no doubt have read the Company's letter to the Council dated February 22, containing the Directors' views on the counter offer made by the Council in the matter of the purchase negotiations instituted last year. Towards the end of this letter there is a paragraph in which the Directors indicated that, provided the undertaking is continued as a Limited Company, they were prepared to concede certain principles which have been consistently adhered to by past Councils. The Directors further suggested that they should prepare a scheme for continuing the undertaking as a Limited Company, but on a profit-sharing basis and with the Council's interests represented on the Board. In view of the entirely different viewpoints taken by the Council and the Board of the Company, it did not seem to the Council that any useful purpose would be served by encouraging the Directors to proceed with their proposal. On the other hand, the Council has taken the fullest possible advantage of the opportunity offered for devising a scheme under which it may be possible to continue the undertaking as a Limited Company, subject to such control as the Council considers essential. The Council's point of view is a very simple one to explain; it simply resolves itself into this: that the water supply of this rapidly developing Settlement is of such outstanding importance to the community, both now and in the future, that the Council cannot under any circumstances consent to leave it in the unfettered hands of a Board of Directors influenced by a London Committee. In making this statement I am not criticising the past policy of the Directors, but am endeavouring to bring home to you in plain language that under present conditions the interests of the shareholders of the Company and those of the community are in direct conflict. The Council has formed the very definite decision that it is imperative that these conditions should be changed. To be perfectly frank with you, I can definitely state that the Council has no particular desire to shoulder the responsibility of running the Waterworks undertaking as a Municipal department, and only proposes to exercise its power of purchase as a last resort. If any suitable alternative can be found for reconciling the conflicting of interests which obtains under present conditions, you may rest assured that the Council is perfectly willing to accept such an alternative. I am now in a position to state with confidence that such an alternative has been found, and that the principles embodied in the Memorandum before you contain a solution of the problem. A few words from me in explanation of these principles will perhaps not be out of place. Our Treasurer and Comptroller has devoted a good deal of his time during the past year to the financial intricacies of the question, and has taken full advantage of the services of the Council's auditors in co-ordinating the mass of figures supplied by the Company. The Memorandum before you is the result of close and continued application; it is not a document that has been hastily drawn up. On the contrary, the closest touch has been maintained with the views of all interested parties, particularly those of the Commissioner of Public Works. Before reaching the Council, each item of the Memorandum had to stand the test of the keenest criticism from the Council's officials and auditors, and criticism was not lacking during the pilotage of the Memorandum through the Finance Committee and the Council.

Turning to the various clauses of the Memorandum, you will notice that the first deals with the issue of bonus shares to the shareholders of the Company. Many of the share issues of the Company have been made at a substantial premium; in other words, the shareholders of the Company have had to pay more than the par value of the shares purchased. If this policy had not been adopted by the Company, a greater number of shares would have been issued to provide the same amount of working capital. The Council considers it only just and equitable that the shareholders as a body should be given the benefit of the amounts they contributed under the heading of "Premia on Shares."

Clause 2 deals with the assets and liabilities of the Plumbing and Fittings Department. This Department has been built up by the enterprise of the Directors and officials of the Company. From time to time the Chairman of the Company has stated that the department earns substantial profits. The Council does not consider that the consumer is, strictly speaking, entitled to share in the profits of this side of the business for the reason that the profits earned are not directly due to the Franchise. The Council is not out to drive too hard a bargain with the Company, and has accordingly proposed the formation of a subsidiary company to take over this branch of the Company's activities. This is quite a simple matter to arrange, and simply means that the assets and liabilities of this department will be transferred from the Parent Company's balance sheet to that of the Subsidiary Company. To fill the void thus created in the balance sheet of the Parent Company there will appear in due course a certain number of shares in the Subsidiary Company. The Council does not propose to interest itself in any way with the doings of this Subsidiary Company. Any dividends that this company may be in a position to declare from time to time will be duly paid to the Parent Company and subsequently distributed by the directors to the shareholders in such a manner as to clearly indicate that this extra dividend is quite independent and apart from the Company's franchise from the Council.

The provisions of Clause 3 are self-explanatory, and all I need do is to explain that the Tariff of Charges which the Company will be invited to draw up will be closely scrutinised by the Council's officials, and the Council will be guided by the opinion of these officials in giving its approval to the charges. The Tariff will not aim at a surplus, but as it will operate for 5 years with interest on capital outlay constantly increasing, it is fairly obvious that a surplus may result in the initial years of its operation, which may be eventually swamped by a deficit occurring in the final year. Whatever the result of its operation may be, it is purely incidental to the Tariff. I want you particularly to note that the dividend offered, although not actually guaranteed, will be as certain as most things are in this life. The only risk that the shareholder will take is under the heading of "Exchange." In Resolution 6 you will have observed that a dividend of 8 per cent. is proposed for the Telephone Company, and you will naturally ask why we propose to allow the Waterworks Company a higher rate of dividend. The explanation is simple. The Telephone Company operates a service of less importance to the ratepayers than their water supply; the Company is a local one, and has not the years of service behind it that the Waterworks Company has. We have endeavoured to be just in recognizing the claims of the share-

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holders of the Waterworks Company as greater than those of the shareholders of the Telephone Company. It is also to be noted that the 9 per cent. dividend will be available not only on the present share capital of the Company, but on the capital as it will be increased by the issue of bonus shares referred to in Clause 1, and that the shareholders will also benefit by the profits of the Plumbing and Fittings Department.

The Reserves we propose for the Company are admittedly on the generous side, but it is our intention not only to increase the shareholders' security by the proper maintenance of the Company's assets, but to strengthen the financial position of the Company itself in the interests of the community. It is proposed that any yearly surplus resulting from the Company's business shall be transferred to a Tariff Revision Suspense Account, and that the amount at credit of this account, together with the others mentioned in the Memorandum, will be taken into consideration at the quinquennial revisions of the tariff. In other words, if the tariff has been framed on too high a basis for the first 5 years (which of course we shall endeavour to prevent), the resulting surplus will be taken into account when framing the tariff for the next 5 years.

Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 provide for that measure of control which the Council considers it necessary to exercise over all public utility companies operating in Shanghai.

Perhaps a word of explanation from me as to the precise meaning and effect of Clause 5 may avoid any misunderstanding arising in the future. What the Council in effect proposes is that a definite line be drawn between the present interests of the shareholders and those of the future. The Council proposes to treat the shareholders of the Company, as regards their interests as they exist to-day, on what it considers to be a fair and even generous basis. The Council considers a dividend of practically 9 per cent. in gold, plus any profits the Subsidiary Company may earn, compensates the shareholders very adequately for any risks they may have run in the past, and therefore does not propose that the shareholders as they exist to-day shall in any way benefit by the future prosperity of the Company (except to the extent that their security is thereby increased), unless their assistance is necessary in the raising of further capital. In other words, if it is found possible to finance the Company by more economical means than the issue of additional shares, no addition to the share capital will be permitted. On the other hand, the condition of the money market may justify the Council in a further issue of shares. The deciding factor as regards the financing of additional capital outlay will be the interests of the community, and not those of the shareholder. The Council is aware that the Company's Articles of Association contain a clause that the debenture capital shall not be permitted to exceed the nominal share capital without the sanction of a general meeting. The Company's Articles of Association will therefore need revision in this and possibly other particulars at a later stage of the negotiations.

The last paragraph dealing with the extension of the revised Agreement allows the Company to operate undisturbed for the next 20 years, and provides for the option of purchase by the Municipality at the end of this period. When this time arrives, the basis of valuing the Company's property as a going concern without any allowance being made for compulsory purchase or good will may—I do not say will—somewhat simplify the problem that will face a future arbitrator.

Now with regard to Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of Resolution 7, which are similar to those before you last year except that they are entirely free from any qualifications, you will naturally wonder, as the Council is so confident of the equity of its alternative proposals, why it still wishes to have authority to purchase the Undertaking. The reason is quite simple to explain. Although the Council is confident that the Memorandum referred to in Clause 4 contains the solution of this long outstanding question, the Council is quite unable to forecast the attitude which the Directors of the Company will finally adopt towards the Council's proposals. You must remember that the wall we are endeavouring to break down has been built up, brick by brick, during the past 20 years. You must also remember that the Company's Directors have been to a certain extent justified in placing the shareholders' interests before those of the consumers. While the Council is of the opinion that the Directors would be acting against the best interests of the shareholders should they place any obstacles in the way of a settlement on the lines of the Memorandum, still, if these obstacles do in fact arise, the Council must be prepared to exercise the power of purchase as the only means of obtaining that control over the Company's activities which is deemed essential in the interests of the community. You must understand that in whatever way this question is settled, you will have to pay more for your water. Even if the high price demanded by the Company were agreed to, the Council would still be able to supply the community with water at a price approximately that suggested by the Company. There is, however, every reason to believe that the arbitrators' award would fall short of the Company's figure by some 3 to 4 million of taels, and if this proved to be the case, the Council's price for water would be appreciably lower than the price proposed by the Company.

It does not seem necessary for me to further elaborate this side of the question, except to say that you can rest assured that the Council does not propose to exercise the option of purchase unless and until all efforts at a compromise on a reasonable basis have finally and definitely failed.

It affords me great pleasure to be able to add that since our last exchange of letters with the Company, two informal discussions have taken place between representatives of the Company and the Council. The Memorandum was discussed in all its aspects and it was mutually agreed that no good purpose would be served by confusing the important issues at stake by reference to past correspondence between the Council and the Company. I mention this in order that you may know that a conciliatory atmosphere has been created round this subject, and it will certainly not be the Council's fault if this atmosphere becomes in any way clouded. At the same time I should be wrong in allowing you to infer that the problem is definitely solved. It is not. The Company's representatives have brought forward certain additional proposals which are now being examined. To meet these proposals the Council has already intimated its willingness to stretch a point here and there, particularly as regards a slight reduction in the exchange figure mentioned in the Memorandum. Certain of these points are considered matters of detail which are already covered by Clause 4 of the Resolution. There is one matter, however, which the Council considers a question of principle, and that is whether or not the assets and liabilities of the Shipping Department shell be transferred to the proposed Subsidiary Company in addition to those of the Plumbing & Fittings Department. The Council is prepared to advise you to concede this principle, always however provided that this concession, together with others of minor importance of which I have given you an indication, is accepted by the Company as a "quid pro quo" to be set against those proposals of the Company which the Council cannot under any circumstances agree to. In order to allow the Council a little more latitude than is given in the Memorandum, I now propose, with the Chairman's approval, to delete the words "as to detail" from the fourth Clause of Resolution 7.

I now propose the adoption of Resolution 7 with the omission of the words just mentioned by me from Clause 4:—

Resolution VII.—That the Council be and it is hereby authorized:—

(1) To take such action as may be requisite to exercise the powers of purchase vested in the Council under Clause 9 of the agreement made between the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Ltd., and the Council, dated July 1, 1905. And, in the exercise of such powers, to purchase the business and undertaking of the said Company and all the lands, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the said Company, and,

(2) To raise upon such terms and in such manner as the Council may, in its discretion, think fit, such sum as may be required to complete the purchase hereinbefore authorised; and, following upon such purchase,

(3) To carry on the business so purchased as a Muncipal undertaking (on the general principles laid down in the Report of the Special Electricity Committee, 1915, and adopted by the Ratepayers).

or as an alternative:—

(4) To revise the Agreement made between the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Ld., and the Council, dated July 1, 1905, so as to embody the principles outlined in the Council's Memorandum dated April 7, 1924, with such modifications (if any) as the Council shall think expedient.

I have now pleasure in proposing the adoption of Resolution No. VII, with the omission from Clause 4 of the words I have just mentioned.

Mr. W. P. Lambe—I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Chairman—Resolution No. VII has been proposed and seconded and is now before the meeting and open to discussion. If no ratepayer has any remarks to offer or questions to ask about this resolution I will now put it to the vote, but as it is an important one I will read it again (Resolution read).

Mr. P. W. Goldring—Mr. Chairman, May I make one remark. It seems to me, Sir, that this resolution cannot be passed as one, because the 'alternative' should be an amendment. I do not see how any sensible body of people can possibly pass the resolution as it stands. The fourth clause is nothing but an amendment. I make that comment. I ask every sensible person here to read it as such. It can be nothing but an amendment and should be moved independently. I would also say, with deference, that each of the clauses should be proposed separately. I put it to you that that would be the proper way. It is not a properly framed resolution.

The Chairman—With regard to the point which has just been raised, it seems to me that this meeting is perfectly in order if it authorizes the Council to take one of two steps, whichever it may choose in its discretion, which is the form in which the resolution runs, clauses one to three being one scheme and the alternative scheme being clause four. If no other ratepayer has anything to say, I will put the resolution and read it to you again. That resolution has been proposed by Mr. Fessenden and seconded by Mr. Lambe. Those in favour signify the same in the usual way.—Those against?—Carried by an overwhelming majority.

The Chairman—Resolution No. VI.—I call upon Mr. Fessenden.

Mr. S. Fessenden—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Before formally proposing this Resolution, I should like you to know that a letter was received from the Company yesterday agreeing to a revision of the 1907 Agreement on the lines laid down in the Council's Memorandum dated April 3. I have already explained to the best of my ability the various clauses of the Waterworks memorandum, and it does not seem necessary for me to go over what is practically the same ground in connexion with the Telephone memorandum. The Company has asked for some unimportant modifications, and also for further information as to the Council's intentions under certain of the Clauses of the Memorandum. There has not been time for the Council to give any detailed consideration to the letter, but I think I am safe in saying that the points raised by the Company will not be difficult to adjust, and that the matter is on the highway to complete final agreement.

The correspondence between the Council and the Company was published in the Municipal Gazette of April 5, and as both parties are practically agreed on questions of principle, it does not seem necessary for me to do more than heartily congratulate all those who have taken a hand in the negotiations on the highly successful outcome of their labours, which, I may add, have been conducted without even a suggestion of friction on either side. Both parties have made it their business to understand the viewpoint of the other, and if we can only succeed in introducing this principle into discussions on other problems the work of the Council will be materially lightened.

I have much pleasure in proposing:—

Resolution VI.—That the Council be and it is hereby authorized to revise the Agreement made between the Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Ld., and the Council dated April 1, 1907, so as to embody the principles outlined in the Council's Memorandum dated April 3, 1924 with such modifications (if any) as to detail as the Council shall think expedient.

Mr. E. F. Mackay—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg to second that resolution.

The Chairman—Resolution No. VI has been duly proposed and seconded and is now before the meeting.—Those in favour signify the same in the usual way?—Against?—Carried.

The Chairman—I now call on Mr. Fessenden to move Resolution No. VIII.

REASSESSMENT OF LAND.

Mr. Fessenden—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is interesting to note that assessments of land, though supposed to last for a full term of five years, have, in practice, required revision at considerably less periods. In fact, during recent history, only one assessment has remained in operation for its full term, that of 1911. The assessment of 1903 was increased by one third in 1905, and a reassessment was made in 1907: the assessment of 1916 was replaced in 1920 and was again revised in 1922, and it is now proposed, under your direction, to undertake a new assessment during the current year, to come into operation on January 1, 1925.

It is within your knowledge that occupiers of houses, in their contributions to Municipal revenue, are taxed upon the basis of actual rentals, or in the case of houses in the occupation of their owners on the basis of current rental values. Thus taxation in the case of house tax, or, as we call it, General Municipal Rate, is always levied on the values actually obtaining from time to time. On the other hand, in the case of land, taxation is based on the values as ascertained at the time of the last assessment. If, therefore, reassessment is not undertaken when such values have admittedly increased, the balance as between land owners and occupiers of houses in their contributions towards the expenses of the administration is naturally upset.

From the numerous cases of land expropriation which have come before the Council in the course of the past year it is evident that land values, generally speaking, have advanced very considerably since the last assessment. This being so, land is not at the present time bearing its fair share of taxation vis-a-vis the General Municipal Rate, and reassessment should accordingly be undertaken.

I have therefore no hesitation in asking your support of Resolution VIII which reads:—

Resolution VIII.—That the Council be and it is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for the re-assessment of the land comprised within the limits of the Settlement, during the current year, such re-assessment to come into force as from the first day of January, 1925, and to engage such professional assistance for the performance of the work as may be found expedient.

Mr. W. P. Lambe—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Chairman—Resolution No. VIII has been duly proposed and seconded and is now before the meeting. Those in favour of that resolution signify the same in the usual way.—Those against?—Carried.

The Chairman—Mr. Fessenden, Resolution No. IX.

Mr. Fessenden—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen I have much pleasure in moving:—

Resolution IX.—That Mr. C. M. G. Burnie be elected Land Commissioner for the ensuing Municipal year.

Mr. Lambe—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Chairman—It has been proposed and seconded that Mr. C. M. G. Burnie be elected Land Commissioner for the ensuing Municipal year. Those in favour?—Those against?—Carried.

The Chairman—Mr. Mackay, Resolution No. X.

Mr. E. F. Mackay—I beg to propose:—

Resolution X.—That Drs. F. M. Neild and S. A. Ransom, and Messrs. S. Fessenden and W. P. Lambe be elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the Shanghai General Hospital.

Mr. V. G. Lyman—It give me much pleasure to second that resolution.

The Chairman—Those in favour of that resolution? — Those against?—Carried. Ladies and Gentlemen, that closes the business of this meeting and I think it is a matter of regret that there is no quorum, so it is impossible to proceed with the business which was notified for the special meeting.

Mr. Fessenden—Before this meeting adjourns, I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Sir Skinner Turner for his services as Chairman to-day.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman—Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much. I am very glad to help and if all meetings were as kind and nice as this one my task would be a great deal happier than it sometimes is.

Sir Edward Pearce — Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, before we disperse I should like to propose a vote of thanks, and a hearty one at that, to the Municipal Councillors who are now retiring from office. They have put in a great deal of arduous work during the year, and they have performed it exceptionally well. I ask you to carry the vote by acclamation.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

H. M. Consul-General Presents Season's Trophies

There was a big gathering of local football officials, players and supporters at the Customs Club on Saturday night, the occasion being a smoking concert to mark the termination of the season's activities; and the presentation of the various trophies to the winners, by Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., H. M. Consul-General, who is Patron of the Shanghai Football Association.

Mr. John Prentice, the Association's President, was in the Chair, being supported by Mr. Barton, Messrs. W. S. Campbell and R. Grimshaw, Vice-Presidents of the Association, Mr. L. A. Lyall, Commissioner of Customs, Mr. F. S. Bridges, and others.

An attractive programme of entertainment had been arranged, and excellent items were tendered by Messrs S. Webb (piano), Ferguson, Stoddart, Van Huyst (violin), G. B. Stormes and Jefferson.

A feature of the affair was the Churchwarden pipes, one of which was available for everyone present. It speaks volumes for the pluck and temerity of Shanghai's footballers that hardly a pipe remained unsmoked, though obviously the implement was new (and possibly fearsome) to most of those who decided to risk it. Few, however, managed to carry on with the pipe throughout the evening, and if a cherub-faced wicket-keeper, who usually keeps to cigarettes, threw his on to the floor after he had begun to change colour, who shall blame him?

In presenting the trophies, Mr. Barton made a very happy speech. He admitted at the outset that he was not such a regular attendant at soccer matches as was his predecessor, the late Sir Everard Fraser, the chief reason being that he usually made Saturday afternoon an opportunity for exercise. However, from what he had seen and from what he knew of the season's football, he was sure that it had been a successful one and that the play had been good.

There was one subject he meant to touch upon, and although it was bound up in the question of grounds, he ventured to express the hope that any difficulty that at present might be evident would eventually be overcome. He referred to the question of the inclusion of Chinese teams in the competition or the International Cup, and possibly the League also. He felt sure that those present would sympathise with the aspirations of the Chinese. Bringing Chinese teams into competition with the other teams would further instil into the Chinese players many of those British virtues that went with Association football. Soccer was quite as good a game as basketball and he hoped that before long we should see Chinese football teams included in some of the competitions managed by the Shanghai Football Association.

Mr. Barton then presented the various trophies. The Skottowe Cup, won by the Shanghai Recreation Club, was taken over by Mr. E. Turner, the Recs' popular captain, who also took the International Cup on behalf of England, and the Dewar Shield (First League) which again has been won by the S.R.C. In receiving the trophies, Mr. Turner made an appropriate little speech, in which he wished the Recs' rivals generally, and the S.F.C. particularly, better luck next season. Mr. L. Goldman received the Engineers' Challenge Cup on behalf of the Shanghai Football Club, returning thanks in a brief speech. The Reside Shield (Second League), won by the Portuguese Sporting Association, was received by Mr. H. Collaco, the captain of the team, and a player responsible in no small measure for his team's remarkable record in the competition. In returning thanks to Mr. Barton, he mentioned that the P.S.A. probably would enter the First Division next season, an announcement that was received with applause. The ceremony terminated with three cheers for the Consul-General, which were given with great gusto.

INTER-CLUB GOLF

Shanghai v. Hungjao

At Kiangwan on Sunday the Shanghai and Hungjao Golf Clubs met and the result was a decisive win for Shanghai. Singles were played in the morning and four ball matches in the afternoon, and in both cases the senior club's representatives proved their superiority. Details:—

SHANGHAI.

Singles.

N. M. Budd	1
E. I. M. Barrett	½
J. F. Pilcher	0
A. Gray	1½
J. L. Crompton	0
C. T. Beath	½
C. Richards	0
C. W. Porter	1
E. Lester Arnold	1½
W. S. Clay	1
O. H. Blackburn	1
R. G. MacDonald	1
	8

Four Ball Matches.

Budd and Barrett	2
Pilcher and Gray	2½
Crompton and Beath	0
Richards and Porter	0
Arnold and Clay	2
Blackburn and MacDonald	2
	8½
Grand total	16½

HUNJAO.

Singles.

H. Martin Little	½
J. Oswald	1
P. Peebles	4
J. E. Murray	0
T. M. Burton	1½
K. M. Cumming	1
W. J. Hawkings	1
A. B. Lowson	0
R. J. Marshall	0
C. M. G. Burnie	0
H. Lipson Ward	0
T. J. Fisher	0
	4½

Four Ball Matches.

Little and Oswald	0
Peebles and Murray	0
Burton and Cumming	0
Hawkings and Lowson	0
Marshall and Burnie	0
Ward and Fisher	0
	0
Grand total	4½

GOLF IN PEKING

Peking, Apr. 10.

A return inter-club match has been arranged between the Peking Golf and Country Club and the Paomachang Golf Club to take place next Sunday, April 13, on the Peking Golf and Country Club course, commencing at 10 a.m. The match will consist of singles in the morning and two-ball foursomes in the afternoon.

The Peking Golf and Country Club will be represented by Messrs. Schmorz, J. W. Stephenson, J. F. Black, Y. Mishima, Fowler, Takauchi, C. R. Bennett and T. C. White, and the Paomachang Golf Club by Mr. D. A. Johnston, Capt. N. P. Baldwin, Mr. W. A. Grant, Dr. A. Shoemaker, Messrs. B. F. Kirby, E. H. Cartwright, A. H. Forbes and another.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

INTERPORT LAWN TENNIS

Hongkong, Apr. 14.

Mr. T. Honda, the Japanese ex-champion of Malaya, to-day defeated Mr. Ng Sze-kwong, tennis champion of Hongkong for the last six years, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI HARRIERS

Club Championship

The race for the trophy presented by the "North-China Daily News" and the honour of being Club champion was keenly contested on Saturday over a stiff course. In the absence of Remedios and McLaren, who have been unable to train up to championship form, Azevedo and Henry Atkinson were expected to give Rose a close race. The first mile saw McKenna leading the field, and then Rose forged ahead, with Young and Harold Atkinson a few yards behind, followed by Azevedo. At three miles Rose was leading, running very nicely, and had secured a good lead of about 200 yards. Rose maintained the lead to the finish and won a fast-run race in excellent style. Harold Atkinson sprang a surprise by finishing in second place and also won the sealed handicap, which was ably framed by C. C. Reneman. Azevedo took third place in the championship and second in the handicap.

All three placed men had put in some hard training for this event and ran exceedingly well. Azevedo was expected to be the runner-up to Rose, but had to be content with third place, Henry Atkinson had an off day and could not even give a glimpse of the form which he had shown earlier in the season.

Results:—

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

1.—George Rose, 36 min. 36⅗ sec.
2.—Harold Atkinson, 37 min. 47⅕ sec.
3.—Joe Azevedo, 39 min. 2⅕ sec.

SEALED HANDICAP.

1.—Harold Atkinson.
2.—Joe Azevedo.
3.—George Rose.

The Club championship closed the Harriers' cross-country season.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Capablanca Drawing Near Lasker

New York, Apr. 11.

In the eighteenth round of the International Chess Tournament, Mr. Yates beat M. Tartakower, Mr. Marshall beat M. Bogoljubow and M. Capablanca beat Mr. Edward Lasker. Dr. Lasker drew with M. Alekhin and M. Maroczy drew with M. Reti.

By his victory M. Capablanca has reduced the gap between him and Dr. Lasker, the leading scores at the end of the round being:—

Dr. Lasker	12 points
M. Capablanca	11 points
M. Alekhin	9½ points

Mr. Yates is now ninth with 5½ points and one game adjourned.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Apr. 12.

In the nineteenth round of the International Chess Tournament, the English player Mr. Yates, beat M. Reti, the vanquisher of M. Capablanca, at the 24th move. M. Capablanca defeated M. Tartakower, M. Alekhine beat M. Janowski and Dr. Lasker beat Mr. Edward Lasker, while Mr. Marshall drew with M. Maroczy.

In the adjourned games of the International Chess Tournament, M. Bogoljubow beat Mr. Yates and M. Alekhine drew with W. M. Bogoljubow.—Reuter's American Service.

Dr. Lasker Still Leading

New York, Apr. 13.

The leading scores at the end of the 19th round of the International Chess Tournament are as follows:—Dr. Lasker, 13 points; M. Capablanca, 12 points; M. Alekhine, 11; Mr. Marshall and M. Reti, each 9½ points. Mr. Yates, who defeated M. Reti brilliantly, is ninth with 6½ points.

Apr. 13.

In the 20th round of the International Chess Tournament, Mr. Edward Lasker beat M. Reti, Dr. Lasker beat Maroczy, M. Capablanca drew with Mr. Yates, and M. Alekhine drew with Mr. Marshall.

Later.

By defeating M. Maroczy, whilst M. Capablanca only drew with Mr. Yates, Dr. Lasker has practically made certain of winning the first prize in the International Chess Tournament.

In order to win the first prize, M. Capablanca must win, and Dr. Lasker must lose, both the remaining games.

Mr. Edward Lasker, by surprisingly defeating M. Reti, took fourth place. M. Reti is now fifth.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Apr. 15.

In the twenty first round of the international Chess Tournament, M. Maroczy beat M. Boguljubow, M. Capablanca beat M. Reti, Mr. Marshall beat Mr. Yates, and Dr. Lasker beat M. Tartakower.—Reuter's American Service.

ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND

International Association Match Drawn

London, Apr. 12.

In an International Association football match at Wembley Stadium to-day, England drew with Scotland, each scoring one goal. The weather was showery. There were 65,000 spectators.

It was a splendid and open game, full of thrilling runs and quick changes of scene. Both goals had many narrow escapes. Five minutes from the interval, following a free-kick against England, Cowan, the Scottish inside, netted. The score at half-time was one nil in Scotland's favour.

Thirteen minutes after resumption Jack and Buchan headed towards the Scottish goal, and Walker, England's inside-left, dashing up, crashed the ball into the net. The game continued to be finely contested but there was no further scoring. The result, one goal all, leaves England at the bottom of the Championship table.—Reuter.

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LAW REPORTS

A TRAGIC RECITAL IN BRITISH COURT

Husband's Forgery of his Wife's Name th Promissory Note: Declaration of Trust and a Cheque: Fraud Revealed by Death

In H. M. Supreme Court, on Tuesday Sir Skinner Turner heard what he subsequently declared to be "one of the saddest and most tragic cases I have ever had to try." It was an action brought by Mrs. Floy Belle Bickel against the Oriental Commercial Bank, Ld., for the return of title deeds to the house and land at 1251 Rue Lafayette, which, without her authority, were hypothecated to the bank for a loan to her late husband of Tls. 3,000 and Tls. 1,000 on promissory notes. Mr. Tycho Wing and Mr. F. J. Schuhl appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Ranald G. McDonald for the defendants.

Mr. Wing said that it was a case of a very painful nature and the plaintiff was reluctant to bring it into Court because of the revelations that would have to be made. The deeds related to Mrs. Bickel's own personal property. She had been married for six years and lived with her husband on terms of perfect mutual confidence and trust. They had a safe in their house, the combination of which was known to them both and it was in that safe that the deeds were kept. These deeds were removed from the safe and passed into the hands of the defendants, but Mrs. Bickel did not know they had gone until long afterwards. The defence was that the deeds were given to the bank for a promissory note entered into by the husband and wife jointly and the bank held a document on which appeared signatures said to be those of Bickel and the plaintiff. She did not sign the document, she had not received any part of the money, nor did she know anything of the transaction until after Bickel's death. The wife's signature on the promissory note purported to have been witnessed, but the attesting witness never did in fact see Mrs. Bickel sign and she never did sign. Perhaps it was noteworthy that the bank apparently never made any inquiry whatsoever; they did not see Mrs. Bickel, they did not ascertain that the attesting witness was in fact an attesting witess and they did not, as one would have thought any bank would have done, make inquiry as to whether Mrs. Bickel was hypothecating her personal property. The title deed was the wife's name alone and there was no doubt there had been a forgery in the case. Mrs. Bickel was not in any financial difficulty, whatever was the case with her husband, for she had other securities on which she could have negotiated a loan far larger than the other one. After Bickel's death his desk at the Oriental Press was opened and some documents were found and it could be inferred from them why Mrs. Bicked's signature was obtained. The plaintiff claimed that the promissory note was a forgery and therefore not binding and the bank should suffer for its own mistake.

The Judge—It is a question as to which of two innocent parties should suffer?

Mr. Wing—I say the bank was negligent, but not only that, for the bank's title to the deeds rests upon a forgery.

Mrs. Floy Belle Bickel said that she was the widow of Phillip Luke Bickel. They were married four years ago. She lived in her own house, Rue Lafayette, which she bought with her own personal funds after her marriage. Her husband did not contribute anything towards the purchase. The deeds were kept in a safe in their bedroom and both she and her husband held the combination. Bickel died on January 25 this year and shortly afterwards she had a letter from the defendant bank stating that promissory notes from her husband and herself were due on January 31. She replied that she knew nothing about the notes. She then looked for the title deeds and, not finding them in the safe, she went to see the bank manager. He produced the title deeds and the promissory notes and both she and Mr. Vilcudaki, who was with her, remarked that the signature was not hers. The manager said that the bank would not lose, because there was a guarantor, a Mr. Chang. Witness had never previously done business with the bank and she did not even know of its existence.

The promissory notes were produced and witness said that the signatures purporting to be hers were not hers. She had never signed a promissory note of any description.

The Judge (indicating that part of the front page of the document was missing)—Why is this document incomplete?

Mr. McDonald—I will explain that later.

Witness said that on August 21, 1923, she had Tls. 13,000 in securities in the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.

The Judge—There is a promissory note dated December 22, 1923, another document dated August 22, another August 20 and a somewhat peculiar document which appears to be in ink over pencil, or pencil over ink, dated August 23.

Witness identified a genuine signature on a bill of sale, which she said had been pencilled over by someone since she signed it. She had never signed any document whatever in connexion with the bank. She did not receive any of the loan from her husband, they had not discussed it and she knew nothing about it. No one had been authorized to hypothecate her deeds and she had not given her husband a power of attorney.

Cross-examined—She did not know in August, 1923, that her husband was financially embarrassed, nor anything about his financial affairs. He had no money except his salary and he contributed to the family expenses. She put up a bond for Tls. 5,000 when he joined the Oriental Press and she would have assisted him again if he had asked her. She would have been prepared to sign for a loan from the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, with which she always had done business, but she would not have dealt with the Oriental Commercial Bank. In any case she would not have given up the title deeds, because it would not have been necessary. Had she done so she would not have been able to sell her house and at the time it was up for sale. After her husband died she found that he had nothing but debts. He left absolutely no assets and he owed probably something more than $1,000 above what was due to the bank. She never had occasion to distrust him. She would not say that she would not have allowed him to manage her affairs, but the occasion never had arisen for that course to be taken and so she never had authorized it. He did not keep any of his papers in the safe, but she gave him the combination so that he could keep his jewellery there. The house and land were paid for entirely from her own funds and her husband did not obtain any of the money.

Mr. McDonald—Where did you get the money?—That is my business.

Mr. Wing protested against the question and there followed an argument between the Judge and Mr. McDonald as to whether it was in order. Mr. McDonald said that his point was to prove either that the husband provided some part of the purchase money, or in any case that he had some claim on his wife's property and therefore the bank had the right to hold the title deeds as coming from him.

The Judge—I am bound to say that in the present days of female emancipation I do not think that it would be the law in England, and probably still less in America.

Witness repudiated another signature and Mr. McDonald, revealing the document, said that it purported to be a declaration of trust. Similarly with another signature, which Mr. McDonald then showed to her name endorsed on a cheque on the Oriental Commercial Bank for Tls. 3,000, made payable to Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Bickel and crossed "pay to payees." Mrs. Bickel said that she did not have a joint account with her husband at the bank.

The Judge—Had you a joint account at the Chinese American Bank of Commerce—No.

The Judge—The cheque is crossed for that bank.

Witness said that they used to have joint accounts at the American Oriental Bank and the Asia Bank, but both were closed.

Mr. J. B. Wilson, employed by the Oriental Press, said that when Bickel was manager there he brought witness a declaration of trust on which there now appeared witness's name as witnessing the signature of Mrs. Bickel. Her name was not on it when witness signed. He was asked to witness Bickel's signature and he signed against a blank space because Bickel said there would be another signature there, two being required.

Mr. N. A. Vilcudaki gave evidence as to unlocking Bickel's desk at the Oriental Press, at the request of the manager, and removing his papers. He did not find anything indicating that Bickel had withdrawn his deposit from the company, but witness knew that he did withdraw it in 1922, about the time that Mrs. Bickel was building.

Mr. McDonald, opening the defence, said that his clients were in a very difficult position. They had the interests of their shareholders to consider and they felt that in this very unusual and almost unique case the extraordinary facts should be proved to the satisfaction of the Judge of the Supreme Court. Also they were greatly handicapped through being unable to call evidence to controvert that of the plaintiff. There was a suggestion that the bank had not taken sufficient care, but he thought the Court would be satisfied that every reasonable precaution had been taken. They thought it would be discourteous to call to the bank a lady who was said to be ill and apparently the signatures all had been properly witnessed. He had been instructed not to press the case, but simply to put the facts forward and secure a ruling. It was remarkable that the bank should have had the deeds in their possession since August, 1923.

After an adjournment, Mr. J. G. Priestwood, solicitor, was called and identified his signature as witnessing that of Bickel on one of the documents. Mrs. Bickel's name at that time was not on it. He had never seen her, nor, until after Bickel's death did he know that he was married. Bickel had signed the paper before he showed it to witness, but the latter knew his signature and he took a specimen at the time.

The Judge—This goes to show how extraordinarily important it may be to be very careful, although people say some times that lawyers are sticklers. I suggest that in future you or anyone else should state to whose signature you bear witness.

Mr. Priestwood—There is a line and dots leading to the signature I witnessed.

The Judge—Quite so, but all the same it would be better to state distinctly which signature is being witnessed and if necessary have the form of the document altered.

Mrs. Bickel, recalled, said that she had been to the bank and asked for the cheque relating to the purchase of the house. The bank raised no objection to producing it, but said that they would like the Court to ask for it. She produced the stub of the cheque and her passbook with the corresponding entry.

The Judge—I should have thought cheques were the property of the customer. In England, where there is a stamp on them, presumably they belong to the bank as receipts. I do not quite understand the attitude of the bank and if the circumstances were different I should not hesitate to make an order on the bank to produce the cheque.

Mr. Guy Dun, accountant in the Oriental Commercial Bank, detailed the proceedings after Bickel, through Chang Ping-fu, one of their directors, had asked for a loan. It was pointed out that the deeds were in Mrs. Bickel's name and Bickel then suggested a joint loan and all the subsequent proceedings were conducted as for a joint account. In every case they asked for Mrs. Bickel's signature and Bickel always brought back the documents signed, as he said, by her. Once they sent a paper to her, but he intercepted it, saying she was sick and later he brought it back with the signature. The mutilated document, witness explained, had to do with an extension of the loan. On the top part appeared Mr. and Mrs. Bickel's signatures and this was torn off and given to Bickel when the extension was negotiated. Witness considered that they had taken every possible precaution.

In the course of his summing up, his Lorship said—This is one of the saddest and most tragic cases I have ever had to try. I am far from saying anything in criticism of the defendant bank for taking the action they have done. They were fully entitled to have the case presented in open Court. It was alleged that they had been swindled by a bad man and I think they were fully entitled to have the case examined in order that all the circumstances might be gone into. The tragedy of the case is that it has involved revelations of a very grave nature against a man now dead and who therefore cannot answer for himself. I fail to see there was any negligence on the plaintiff's part. I hesitate to hold the bank guily of negligence because I do not think they were and they certainly went to a great deal of trouble. But if the bank want to keep the documents in their possession they have got to base their title upon a forged document and the doings of a thief. I say again, as I have said twice already, though some people say regarding the execution of legal documents that there is too much anxiety to have the formalities observed, and some go so far as to talk of legal quibbles, this case has shown very materially that it is the essential duty of parties who witness documents to say definitely what they are witnessing. If the people who witnessed the various documents in this case had stated whose signature they were witnessing it would have been practically impossible for this fraud to have been perpetrated. There will be judgment for the plaintiff for the return of the title deeds and the usual consequences of costs must follow the event.

SHIPPING JUDGMENT IN SUPREME COURT

Woosung—Kiang Ning Collision: Post-war Differences in Exchange & Shippers' Claims

An Admiralty jurisdiction case of some interest to Shanghai shipping circles came before his honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H.M. Supreme Court last Friday. The China Navigation Company, Ld. (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire), owners of the str. Woosung, were the plaintiffs, and the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co., owners of the hulk Kiang Ning were defendants. The case arose out of a collision between the two vessels in the Yangtze, near Kiukiang, which occurred on September 12 of last year. Mr. R. E. S. Gregson appeared for plaintiffs; Mr. J. H. Teesdale for defendants.

According to the statement of claim the accident occurred while the str. Woosung was on her way to Hankow. She came into collision with the hulk and sunk her, but there was no loss of life nor personal injury. The gross tonnage of the Woosung was 3,215.11. The collision occurred without the fault or privity of the plaintiffs, but plaintiffs admitted that the accident was caused by the improper navigation of the Woosung. The claim in respect of the loss of the Kiang Ning with her cargo, boats, etc., at the time of the collision would exceed the aggregate of £8 per ton of the registered tonnage, after deduction of crew space, as allowed by the Merchant Shipping Act. That aggregate, worked out at £8 per ton, was £25,720, and plaintiffs submitted to pay into Court that sum together with interest charged at 7 per cent. per annum, reckoned from the date of the collision till the date of payment.

The plaintiffs' claim was, therefore:

That it might be declared that they and the ship Woosung were not answerable in damages arising out of the collision in respect of loss of cargo or damage to ship's boats, goods, merchandise etc., to an aggregate amount exceeding £8 per ton, and that it might be declared that the amount was the sum of £25,720 with interest. Also that proper directions might be given by the Court to ascertain the persons who had any claim in respect of the loss of the ship, damage, etc.

The facts of the case were common to both sides, and the only point raised was with regard to the rate of exchange, Mr. Gregson for plaintiffs, contending the exchange should be reckoned at the rate prevailing on the date of paying-in, and the defence contending it should be reckoned at the rate prevailing on the date of the breach, i.e. the date of the collision.

Mr. Gregson stated that the defendants had put in no counter claim, and as far as he knew the only questions that remained were, the obtaining of a form of decree, rate of exchange for the sterling amount, and deciding what form and in what papers the advertisements were to appear.

With reference to the rate of exchange, counsel pointed out that in previous cases heard in that Court the rate of exchange was taken as the rate prevailing on the day of payment in.

The Judge—Of payment in, Mr. Gregson?

Counsel—Yes, my Lord.

Counsel referred his Lordship to the case between the owners of the str. Hangchow and the owners of the str. Fiema, arising out of a similar collison. The case was reported in the "North China Herald" of 1893. The circumstances were very similar to the present case, and the question of the rate of exchange was argued shortly before Mr. Justice Hammond. A decree was made in sterling and the parties agreed. The Judge then held that the rate of exchange be reckoned from the date of paying-in. The other case was that of the owners of the str. Newchwang and the owners of the str. On Wo, heard in that court in 1897. Then it was simply taken for granted. A more recent case was before the King's Bench Division in 1920, a case of goods and contract.

The learned judge then held that judgment must be made in sterling.

The Judge—Yes, that judgment has always given rise to doubt in my mind as to whether we have the right to try any cases in these courts at all except in sterling. Now we try cases in any currency.

Counsel went on to discuss in what papers advertisements should be placed advising owners of cargo in the Kiang Ning, etc., to put in their claims. He suggested the "North China Daily News" and the "*Sinwanpao*" for Shanghai, and the "*Chungying*" in Kiukiang.

Mr. Teesdale, argued that the rate of exchange should be fixed at the rate prevailing at the time of the collision and not at the time of paying-in. He referred his Lordship to recent cases in the King's Bench Division in which it was invariably held the rate should be fixed at the rate prevailing on the date of the breach or accident.

His Lordship, giving judgment, said plaintiffs were entitled to limit their liability in this case under the Merchant Shipping Act. The real difficulty in the case arose from the question of the rate of exchange in which the sum in sterling was to be paid into Court to be available for the claimants. He had been referred to three old cases in that court in which the same question arose. In one case only had there been some slight argument and in the others it had been taken more or less for grant

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ed that the rate should be fixed at the rate prevailing on the date of paying in. On the other hand they had the more recent cases in London where the point arose and in these the judgments had been against those of his predecessors. It seemed to him, therefore, (and he said it with a certain amount of deference because what he proposed to hold was contrary to what had been held in that Court before) he would have to uphold the Home decisions. In all the cases in England they had to go to the date of the breach to decide the rate of exchange. In this case there was no dispute, but what the date of the breach was the date when the collision occurred. He repeated that he felt the difficulty in which he was placed when going against previous decisions in Shanghai, but at the same time it had to be remembered that the point had never been carefully argued here. Furthermore it was possible that in those days the great fluctuations of exchange which had arisen in recent years did not apply and the matter was not then of any very great importance. A good deal had passed in the courts at Home since any one of these three judgments, and the matter had been argued very completely for both sides. It had never been settled in the Shanghai Court in any way that was binding on his Lordship, and he held, therefore, that the money must be paid into Court at the rate of exchange prevailing on the day of the breach, that was on the day of the collision. Plaintiffs liability would be limited to £8 per ton, less crew space, etc., amounting to £25,720, together with interest at 7 per cent. per annum reckoned from the date of the collision to the date of paying-in. Advertisements to be brought to the notice of claimants would be published in the "North China Daily News," the "*Sinwanpao*" and the "*Chungying*," all claims to be made within 60 days of the appearance of the advertisements. Costs of the action would be borne by plaintiffs.

SIKH WITNESS'S CONDUCT IN THE BOX

Refusal to Hold the Book: But "Just as Likely to Tell Truth"

In H. M. Supreme Court, on Monday, before his Honour Judge Grain, the Shanghai Municipal Council sued Soocha Singh, one of the ex-Granthis of the Sikh Gurdwara, on account of the non-return of a winter suit and a sheet, respectively valued at $21 and $3.71.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, prosecuting on behalf of the Municipal Council, said that Soocha Singh was allowed to resign his position as Granthi on January 1 this year and the articles mentioned were part of his equipment which he had failed to return.

Inspector Abbott, a Sikh Havildar and a Chinese storekeeper from the Gordon Road police depôt proved the issue of defendant's equipment and the return of everything except the suit and sheet.

After having been sworn, Soocha Singh, contrary to the custom of the Sikhs, who hold the Book in their hands all the time they are giving evidence, placed it on the desk and refused to take it again.

The Judge—Well, I don't mind. I suppose he is just as likely to tell the truth either way.

Capt. E. I. M. Barrett—It is a very strict Sikh custom. The Book must be held in their hands.

The Judge—And if he doesn't?

Capt. Barrett—Then his evidence is of no value.

The defendant then picked up the Book, but again put it down after saying a few words. He said that he and another Granthi were dismissed from the force, though they had committed no fault. They were bringing an action against the Municipal Council and because of this the police were taking advantage of them.

The defendant produced a receipt for the return of his equipment. This was examined by a Sikh Havildar who issued it and who said that he entered only one winter suit on it, but the figure since had been altered to "two." Defendant replied that he was told to alter the figure because he did not admit that there was a suit short. There was a sheet short: it had been taken by his washerman and he was prepared to pay for it.

The Judge said that the defendant had a right to some wear of the articles, but the Council also had the right to charge the full cost of replacement. Therefore he would give judgment for the full value and leave it to the Council's discretion as to how much they would recover.

HOLE IN A PERSIAN CARPET

Judge's Disagreement with Litigant that One Would Spoil a Rug

Before his Honour Judge Grain, at H. M. Supreme Court on Monday, H. M. D. Rizaief sued Arts & Crafts, Ld., for Tls. 500, the value of a Persian carpet alleged to have been damaged whilst in their keeping. Mr. A. C. Holborow appeared for the defendants.

Plaintiff said that on May 1, 1923, he delivered three Persian carpets to the defendants for storage. About June or July, he took two prospective buyers to see them and they then were in good condition. In November he took another prospective buyer round and then noticed that one carpet was damaged, a piece having been torn out near the fringe. The defendants offered him Tls. 5 compensation, without prejudice, and subsequently withdrew the offer when he threatened legal action. He bought the carpet for about Tls. 350, but he could not replace it for Tls. 500.

In cross-examination, plaintiff denied that the carpet ever had been hung up: it was too big for that. The Persians only hung rugs on their walls. The carpet was transferred from the warehouse to the showroom and it was his opinion that it was damaged during the journey, probably by the wheel of a cart, motor-car or wheelbarrow.

The carpet was was produced in court and besides the damage mentioned by plaintiff Mr. Holborow pointed out other marks and asked if they were nail holes, suggesting that, as they were at regular intervals, they indicated that the carpet had been hung up. Witness said that he did not think they were nail holes, but whatever they were they indicated even more damage than he had noticed before. They were not there when he had the carpet. He thanked the defendants very much for drawing his attention to them.

Mr. Holborow—I have something else to show you which you may want to thank me for.

Counsel then pointed out another mark which he suggested was a burn, possibly from a cigar. Witness agreed that it might be and it might have been caused by himself, but he would make no suggestion, because, whatever it was, it did not affect the value of the carpet. The reserve price put on the carpet at auction was Tls. 150.

LIKE MENDING HOLE IN DRESS SUIT.

Answering the Judge, plaintiff said that, if he had the carpet mended, it would be like mending a hole in a dress suit.

The Judge said that personally he had seen it done and also had had his own carpets done, both in Persia and Constantinople.

Plaintiff—A carpet mended would only be seen in very poor or low class houses.

The Judge—Oh, come come! You can see them in very rich men's houses.

Plaintiff said that he could have the carpet mended for about Tls. 25, but the carpet would be spoiled.

In support of his statements, plaintiff called an auctioneer, a removal coolie and a prospective buyer, but all said that, though they did not notice any defects in the carpet, they would not say there were none, because they had not examined it sufficiently closely.

Mr. M. Berry, an employee in Arts & Crafts, said that at the end of last season they had approximately 10,000 carpets in storage, of an insured value of Tls. 1,000,000. He described the treatment of carpets when they were taken in and the method of storage and said that it was absolutely impossible for a carpet to be damaged as this one was, either by the treatment or storage. It was his opinion that the holes were caused by nails, possibly when the carpet was on the floor and the other damage probably was caused by the carpet being hung on a wall. The holes were not of recent date.

Mr. R. Donohoe, a carpet manufacturer, said that he had lived in Persia and in that country he had seen carpets 18 ft. to 20 ft. long hanging on the walls. The small holes in the plaintiff's carpet in his opinion were caused by nails and the larger tear might have been made either by a nail or by a furniture caster catching in the fringe. It was an old tear, because the wool had come out.

A Chinese storekeeper at Arts & Crafts said that he received three carpets from the plaintiff. Two were in good condition, but the other (the one in court) was damaged and he reported that fact to the man over him. The Chinese chief storekeeper corroborated this.

On this evidence the Judge said that he need not hear Mr. Holborow. He was compelled to accept the evidence of the last two witnesses. There would be judgment for the defendants with costs.

ROWARTH TRIAL PERJURY CHARGES

Mother and Daughter Before British Magistrate

The arrest of Mrs. Judith Rowarth and her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Davis, in circumstances already reported, was followed by their appearance at H. M. Police Court on Monday before Mr. G. W. King, Against Mrs. Rowarth, who is 64 years of age, there are two charges, viz:

That between May 4 and June 29, 1923, she conspired together with Cecilia Sequeira, a Portuguese subject, to defeat the ends of justice by keeping a material witness in hiding and from appearing at the trial of Rex. *v.* Rowarth.

Further, that being a person legally summoned as a witness in the trial, she falsely and knowingly swore that she did not see the complainant Bakhar Singh on May 4 (the day of the attack upon him), that she knew nothing of the attack upon him, and that she was never at her daughter's house on the evening of that day.

The charge against Mrs. Davis was that she falsely and knowingly swore that Mrs. Rowarth did not go out of her house before supper, i.e. before 8.30 p.m. on May 4.

On the application of Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, the name of W. H. Goulbourn, who has already been committed for trial on a charge of perjury in the case, was struck out from the present charge of conspiracy, and counsel intimated that he proposed first to deal with the charges against Mrs. Rowarth.

In answer to the Magistrate, accused said that they clearly understood the charges. Asked if they wished to be legally represented, Mrs. Davies answered that efforts were being made to engage a lawyer on their behalf.

In these circumstances no evidence was taken, and the accused were remanded in custody until next morning.

Conspiring to Keep a Witness in Hiding

The story of the murderous attack upon the Sikh money-lender, Pakhar Singh, was told again at H. M. Police Court on Tuesday.

Mr. E. T. Maitland conducted the prosecution, Mr. S. H. Lewis appeared for the defence, and Mr. Mansel Reece watched the case on behalf of W. H. Goulbourn, who has already been committed for trial on a charge of perjury.

Mr. Maitland having outlined the case for the prosecution, called Det. Sub. Inspector Quayle to give evidence of arrest. The Inspector stated that on Sunday he arrested the accused on board the str. Sinkiang. The warrant was issued on March 10, but the two women had then left Shanghai. Mrs. Davis explained that she went away on account of some trouble with her brother. Asked why she returned, she stated that the Hongkong police had informed her that she and her mother were wanted in Shanghai, and they put them on board the Sinkiang. Mrs. Rowarth said nothing.

MR. ROWARTH'S ALIBI.

Speaking as to the trial of Mrs. Rowarth on a charge of attempting to murder Pakhar Singh, witness went on to say that Mrs. Rowarth then gave evidence that she went to her daughter's house on the afternoon the crime took place, taking some sewing with her and watching the rest of the company play mahjongg. She remained there until after dinner, and then went with a party to the Isis Theatre to see a picture (which Mr. Maitland recalled was entitled "The Power of a Lie."). Mrs Rowarth added that they left the theatre at 11.5, and she went straight home. She denied that she saw Pakhar Singh that night, and said she knew nothing of the assault until she saw it in the newspapers. Mrs. Davis gave evidence that her mother was in the house all that evening and did not leave until after dinner, when the party left for the theatre. When Mrs. Rowarth was first arrested, witness questioned Mrs. Davis as to the Chinese amah, and the reply was that the amah had left her employ but that she would endeavour to ascertain her whereabouts and inform the the police, but this she never did.

The assault took place in the country off Kwenming Road, witness continued. Mrs. Davis lived in Kwangtung Road, Mrs. Rowarth in an alleyway off Woosung Road, and Pakhar Singh in Miller Road. Witness had made a test and found that a riesha journey from the house of Mrs. Davis to that of Mrs. Rowarth occupied 10 minutes, from the house of Mrs. Rowarth to that of Pakhar Singh three minutes, and from Pakhar Singh's house to the scene of the assault, 22 minutes, and the same time back to Mrs. Rowarth's house

Leave was granted to Mr. Lewis to reserve cross-examination, counsel only just having received instructions to defend, and the same course was followed with all witnesses heard during the day.

THE WOUNDED INDIAN.

Pakhar Singh, the man who was attacked by Chinese and left for dead, re-told his story as to the visit of Mrs. Rowarth and the amah on the evening in question, with the tale that the accused had discovered the residence of a Chinese woman who owed him money. Mrs. Rowarth offering to direct him to the place. Witness demurred, as it was growing dark, but being asked by Mrs. Rowarth why he was afraid, finally consented to accompany her. On nearing the place where the assault took place witness hesitated to go forward, the spot being a lonely one, and Mrs. Rowarth, pointing to a bungalow near by, said that her daughter, Mrs. Davis, was within, and he had better go on, otherwise he would not get his money. So they went forward, the amah leading and carrying a lantern, and Mrs. Rowarth bringing up the rear. After proceeding a little way along a footpath he was attacked by Chinese, two of them holding him from behind and one in front striking at him with a chopper. He was left for dead in the cornfield through which the path ran, and was found there by the police next morning.

Detailing his financial transactions with the accused, witness said that Mrs. Rowarth had borrowed $100 and paid 2 per cent. per month interest, and Mrs. Davis borrowed $800 at the same rate of interest, but her interest had not been paid for two months before the assault took place. Mrs. Davis was guarantor for the $100, and "Dolly" (Mrs. Davis's daughter) guarantor for the $800. "Dolly" also owed witness $200, and this was guaranteed by another Mrs. Davis.

THE AMAH'S STATEMENT.

The amah also repeated the story she had told as to visiting the Sikh's house with Mrs. Rowarth and inviting him to accompany them to the house in which the Chinese debtor was said to live, witness having first been instructed by Mrs. Rowarth to say that she knew where the place was. When they got to the footpath, Mrs. Rowarth told witness to go on ahead with the lantern. When the assault took place witness ran away and, having found her way back to Mr. Rowarth's house, found the old woman inside. Upon telling her that the Sikh had been assaulted, Mrs. Rowarth said "Don't tell lies." Witness then reported the matter to Mrs. Davis, and she said she would speak to her mother about it next day. About a fortnight later, Mrs. Davis dispensed with witness's services as amah, saying that an old amah had returned to her employ, and after this a room was rented for witness by Mrs. Rowarth, who paid the rent and from time to time brought witness money and rice. "Dolly" also called occasionally. Witness did not go outside the house until payment of the rent was stopped.

Mr. R. F. le Mesurier, Chief Clerk at H. M. Supreme Court, produced the official records of the trial of Mrs. Rowarth, and said that both the accused gave evidence on oath to prove an *alibi*, Mrs. Rowarth being acquitted.

When the proceedings were resumed in the afternoon, the Chinese woman from whom the room was rented for the amah gave evidence, saying her house was situated in Chaoufoong Road outside the Settlement. The amah remained there in idleness for three or four months, rent and food being provided by an old foreign woman who called at the place three or four times. She came at night and went in by the back door, so that witness did not see her. She did not recognize either of the accused as having called at the house. Another foreign woman and a man were also visitors.

An itinerant shoemaker who has his stall in the street or alleyway where Mrs. Davis lived, told the Court that he became acquainted with the amah employed by Mrs. Davis. The girl left the place about a fortnight before the detectives called, and witness promised a Chinese detective he would assist in tracing her. He was particularly interested in the girl because she owed him for a pair of shoes.

This was the case for the prosecution.

THE CASE OF MRS. DAVIS

His Worship asked what evidence there was connecting Mrs. Davis with the charge of conspiracy.

Mr. Maitland, in reply, emphasized that Mrs. Rowarth, Mrs. Davis and "Dolly" were over head and ears in debt to the Sikh, and each appeared to have stood guarantor for the other. It was significant that, directly following a private conversation between Mrs. Rowarth and Mrs. Davis, the latter came from the room and told the amah that her services were no longer required, and Mrs. Rowarth then took the girl away to the room in Chaoufoong Road.

His Worship—Who is the other lady mentioned in the conspiracy charge?

Mr. Maitland—Miss Sequeira, a Portuguese lady, who gave evidence in the Supreme Court.

His Worship—What evidence is there that the two accused conspired with her to put the Chinese witness out of the way?

Mr. Maitland—I must ask you to strike out the name of Miss Sequeira from the charge, there being no evidence, making the

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charge that the two accused conspired together.

This amendment was made, and on the application of Mr. Lewis the hearing was adjourned until next day.

Cross-Examination of Witnesses for Prosecution: Case Against Goulbourn Abandoned

The hearing was continued on Wednesday.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted and Mr. S. H. Lewis defended.

Mr. T. W. R. Wilson, assistant surveyor in the P. W. D., put in plans showing the place where the assault is alleged to have taken place, and also the residences of people concerned in the case, and distances from point to point.

Det.-Sub.-Inspector Quayle, recalled and questioned by Mr. Lewis, stated that the Chinese amah was arrested on March 2 and, although the charge against her had been withdrawn, she had been detained at the Mixed Court. He went on to say that no charge was preferred against the two accused at Hongkong, where they stated that they would waive their rights of extradition and were perfectly willing to come back to Shanghai.

Mr. Lewis—That means that their return was voluntary?

Witness—I would not say that. If they had not returned voluntarily they would have been detained by the Hongkong police.

Mr. Lewis—But they had moved from Macao, and I suggest they were on their way to Shanghai?

Witness—They went there because they knew they were wanted on a charge.

In answer to the Magistrate, witness stated that a few days after the assault took place the police had evidence implicating Mrs. Rowarth, but they did not arrest her until after the Sikh came out of hospital, wishing to be quite sure that she was the woman whose name the Sikh had pointed to on the promissory note. They also knew from the first that the amah was an important witness.

BAD LANGUAGE.

Bakhar Singh, in cross-examination, questioned with regard to the witness Hassan Ali (who has stated that he was present at Pakhar's house when Mrs. Rowarth and the amah called on him on the evening in question), said that Hassan had gone to Mexico, but he was unable to say for what reason or where he obtained the money to go. It was true, witness added, that he was so badly knocked about that when in hospital he did not remember very much of what took place. Mrs. Rowarth was there when the assault began, but he had not said she was there the whole time. He was attacked by a Chinese wearing a short black jacket, who, upon rushing at him, used very bad language in Chinese, of which witness knew a little.

Mr. Lewis—You seem to know some of the bad words!

Witness—Yes, I know them all.

Pakhar went on to say that a Chinese woman owed him $2,000, and this was guaranteed by a Mrs. Davis, but he did not know there were four or five Mrs. Davis's living in the neighbourhood.

THE AMAH'S EVIDENCE.

Resuming in the afternoon, the Chinese amah was recalled for cross-examination by Mr. Lewis. She stated that she was 16 years of age according to Chinese reckoning, her actual age now being 15, and 14, at the time of the assault.

It was pointed out to witness that she had stated that she ran away from the scene without knowing why, but went straight to Mrs. Rowarth and reported that the Indian had been assaulted, to which the latter replied that the Indian had not been assaulted. She asked if it was true that there had been an assault, and Mrs. Rowarth's reply was "Nonsense."

Asked whether Mrs. Davis ever visited her at the house in Chaoufoong Road, witness said that she did not; it was the old lady who called, and who paid the rent to the landlady. Witness had seen her hand over the money on one occasion. Mrs. Rowarth only carried rice to her on two occasions, but in sufficient quantity to keep witness in food during the three or four months she was at the house. Mrs Rowarth also gave her money.

"Have you any idea," the Magistrate asked, "why you were taken to the house in Chaoufoong Road, and why Mrs. Rowarth gave you rice and money?"

Witness — Because I am a motherless poor child.

The Magistrate—That was all you were told?

Witness—Yes.

The Magistrate—Then, when you were asked to leave, why did not you go back to Mrs. Davis or to Mrs. Rowarth and ask for some more money or rice for another month or two?

Witness—She had stopped paying, and I would not ask her for more.

Counsel for the Defence.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Lewis, before proceeding with the defence, asked the Magistrate to say that the accused had no case to answer in reference to the charge of conspiracy. Absolutely no evidence had been produced which in effect showed conspiracy, while the evidence of one witness for the prosecution was decidedly in favour of Mrs. Davis in this respect. If the court found that the conspiracy charge against Mrs. Davis was not proved, the same charge against Mrs. Rowarth must automatically fail. As to the evidence in support of the charge of perjury, the principal witness, the Chinese amah, had given an extremely garbled account of the whole affair, and Hassan Ali was not now produced. Counsel urged that the evidence was not sufficient.

Commenting on Mr. Lewis's argument with regard to the conspiracy charge, the Magistrate recalled a similar case where, one of the accused having been found not guilty, another had to be discharged although he had actually pleaded guilty.

The case was further adjourned until next morning when his Worship said he would decide whether or not charges should be framed against the accused. "You should hope for the best and be ready for the worst," his Worship advised Mr. Lewis.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT

Charge Against Goulbourn Dropped

An important development in the case occurred in the Supreme Court on Wednesday, when the charge of perjury against William Henry Goulbourn was dropped.

This took place at a sitting before his Honour Judge Peter Grain, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appearing for the Crown and Mr. C. Mansel Reece for Goulbourn.

Mr. Wilkinson said that in accordance with the China (Criminal Procedure) Rules of Court, 1913, he abandoned the prosecution of William Henry Goulbourn in this case. The rule had been observed regarding the filing of reasons for the abandonment of the charge.

His Lordship said that he understood Goulbourn had been out on bail. In the circumstances the sureties and recognizances of the bail would be discharged and also the recognizances of the witnesses for the prosecution.

Mr. Wilkinson said that the people summoned for the jury would probably see in the papers that they would not now be required.

His Lordship said that that was a matter for the Registry. He would duly enter a *nolle prosequi*.

THE BARBER, BO'SUN AND BOTTLE

Yo Ho Ho! And a 40 Cent Hair Cut

A slight scuffle in the fo'c'sle of the good ship Knaresborough engaged the attention of Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court on Wednesday, when the bo'sun, John Snell, was charged with assaulting a coloured member of the crew, Fitzgerald Scanterbury, by knocking him upon the head with a bottle.

Fitzgerald, who appeared with his head well bandaged, told his Worship that he was in the fo'c'sle with a number of men on Saturday afternoon when the Chinese barber came down and demanded payment of 40 cents for a haircut. Witness disputed liability and the barber suggested it might be possible to "catchee money from the captain," but witness told him to go away. Another man paid the debt, and Snell, who was present, telling witness that he ought to pay his debts and not "play the ass," entered into a discussion which was terminated by his striking witness on the head with a bottle.

Snell denied having operated with the bottle, his version being that, after the tonsorial argument, Fitzgerald got hold of him and began a struggle which ended in complainant falling and striking his head against the corner of a bunk. There were 18 witnesses and all were present in court to bear out his statement. The complainant, added witness, had given a lot of trouble during the voyage, and was "a bit touched."

"Yes," commented his Worship. "It looks as though he were touched on Saturday, by somebody." (To complainant)—Did you strike this man first?

Complainant—God forbid, sir.

One of the 18 witnesses present in court was called and said he saw a scuffle but did not see defendant strike Fitzgerald with a bottle.

After hearing the Master and Second Officer, who said there was nothing against Fitzgerald and there had been no serious trouble on board, his Worship came to the conclusion that Snell was the aggressor, and ordered him to pay a fine of $10, with costs.

DOCTOR'S SON IN TROUBLE

Youth Pleads Guilty at U. S. Court to Bringing Arms Ashore

At the first sessions of the U. S. Court to be held by the new judge, Judge Milton Dwight Purdy, his Honour had before him six unemployed seaman, H. D. Roberts, James B. Filen, Hugh Macauley, Charles Bennet, William McCabe and Pedro Antonio, charged with a variety of offences—carrying concealed weapons, vagrancy, larceny, theft, and brandishing and being in possession of dangerous and deadly weapons.

Roberts pleaded guilty to a charge of having had concealed on his person four Mauser pistols and 20 packets of ammunition. Mr. P. W. Goldring, defending, pleaded the youth of his client (20) and asked the Court to consider his previous clean record and the fact that he had been inveigled by men with whom he was not previously acquainted. He had been bought for a paltry $30 fee which he was to receive for taking the contraband ashore to a Chinese hotel. "I beg of the Court to consider his youth and in fairness to the boy ask for a caution," Mr. Goldring concluded.

Mr. L. G. Husar (the District Attorney)—I do not wish to appear unduly hard in such a case, but I think it my duty to inform your Honour, who has been in China but a short time, that it just the sale of such guns that permits the armed robbers and brigands to terrorize the Settlement and outlying districts. Technically accused is charged with carrying the weapons, but in reality he smuggled them ashore.

Judge Purdy (to defendant)—Come up here where I can see you. Where do you live and who are your parents?

Accused—My home is in Little Falls, Minnesota, and my father is a doctor. I have a brother who formerly was also employed in the Jackson. My first ocean voyage was in 1921, but I did not go again until September last year when I joined the Jackson.

Where did you get the pistols?—I was approached by one of the Chinese below, who said he would give me $30 if I would take them ashore to a hotel in Nanking Road.

Which hotel?—It was the Oriental Hotel, I was to take then to room 415, I believe it was.

Have you ever been in trouble before, have you ever been arrested?—Never, I have never been in trouble with the police or been arrested.

The District Attorney—It might be of value to the local authorities to ascertain who has been shipping the guns into the country and if the boy has any desire to help law and order. . . .

His Honour—The Court will defer sentence until Tuesday, and as Roberts says he will try to identify the Chinese, he will be permitted to do so. Perhaps he can get a ship for America.

Flourishing Weapons

Hugh Dennis Macauley was acquitted of charges of carrying dangerous and deadly weapons in the last case heard. Mr. F. J. Schuhl defended. James B. Filen also pleaded guilty to a similar charge.

Police-Sgt. Gavin, in giving evidence, told the Court that he had been at the Victoria Theatre and went out about 11 o'clock. As he got to North Szechuen Road he noticed defendant and Filen each brandishing a revolver. He told the latter that he was under arrest and then went for several of his companions, Macauley meanwhile running into the Asahi Bar. Returning with officers he again took charge of Filen. Sgt. Stokes went after defendant who had started to run along Haining Road. He did not see the gun on this occasion. Replying to Mr. Schuhl, who asked why he did not arrest both men, he said that there had been three men, two of them with guns and he did not wish to handle more than one.

Sgt. Stokes also gave evidence, adding that Macauley asked him why he arrested him as he had no gun, further that he denied ever having a gun and that he had tried to run away.

Defendant in evidence, said that he had been in the bar with Filen, but that shortly before 11 p.m. told him that he was going home—"I then went on to Haining Road, when I was hit on the back of the head by someone and then struck a blow on the mouth. I was taken to Hongkew and then to the gaol here.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you have a gun?—No.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you ever have a gun?—Only the one given me in the outfit.

Mr. Schuhl—What do you mean? outfit?—The American navy.

Mr. Husar—Did you know Filen?—A short time. I have been in Shanghai just over a month and spent the most of a month in gaol.

Drew Gun at Barman

Mr. Oshima, proprietor of the Ashai Bar, said that he had seen the men in the establishment. He did not see Macauley with a gun and he searched the premises after the arrest, but could find no gun. Asked what he did when Filen drew his gun he replied that he got behind the counter and ducked his head between his knees (demonstrating in the witness box).

His Honour said that as judge and jury he had a double duty. He felt that he as judge did not have the necessary conviction a judge should have to sentence a man to prison—"I can't bring myself to find this man guilty, therefore he will be discharged."

Filen's explanation was that he had been drunk and did not know what he was doing, though the people did get to a distance out in the road while he had the gun.

He was fined G.$100 and sentenced to serve four months in Bilibid Prison.

Snack Counter Thief

Charles Bennet, charged with vagrancy, pleaded guilty, and though it was suggested that he should be permitted to search for work and sleep and eat in the gaol, he was ordered to serve four months and pay G.$100 fine. It was stated that he had been drunk on several occasions and had already served a gaol sentence for such an offence.

William B. McCabe, who stole an overcoat from the snack counter of the Palace Hotel on March 14, will be sent to Bilibid for six months and pay a fine of G.$100. Det.-Sgt. Schmidt told the Court that he had taken complainant's gloves and papers from McCabe's pockets in the Wayport Rooms, not half an hour after the offence had been committed, though he denied knowing how they got there.

An Old Offender

Pedro Antonio, a Filipino, with an alleged record of 10 imprisonments in Bilibid Prison, though but 23 years old, and who stated that he had a wife and children in Germany, was fined G.$100 and sent to prison for six months for stealing an overcoat.

LABOUR INTIMIDATION

Gas Co.'s Casual Workers Held up by Chapei Pickets: Mixed Ct. Revelations

A somewhat serious state of affairs in connexion with labour in Shanghai was disclosed during the hearing of a charge of assault on Monday at the Mixed Court. The defendant was Zung Ah-fah, a foreman in the employ of the Shanghai Gas Co., and the Chinese complainant's story was that a fortnight ago Zung engaged him to work for the Gas Co. and received a commission of of $5. On Saturday he dismissed complainant and when the latter asked for the return of his $5, Zung called some coolies and together they assaulted complainant, beating him with iron bars.

Mr. J. W Mackay, engineer in the employ of the Gas Co., told the court that Zung had been in their employ for 20 years and had a very good record. Witness observed the crowd in Thibet Road on Saturday afternoon, and upon going to make inquiry went to the police station and was astounded to find Zung there behind the bars. Mr. Mackey went on to say that he thought there was "something behind this trouble." Of late, the company had had a lot of trouble with labour. Every day they took on between 50 and 60 temporary labourers, but during the past two or three weeks none of the men turned up for employment. Inquiries were made and it was found that they were being stopped by a gang of men operating from Chapei. This intimidation grew so bad that some of the men who did turn up were stopped on leaving the works and had their wages taken from them. Mr. Mackey added that he felt partly responsible for the appearance of Zung in the dock, since he had given instructions that any man intimidating the labourers was to be arrested.

The Court held that there had been an assault, and fined the foreman $5.

M. Fujiwara, a Japanese subject, was arrested on Saturday for the alleged theft near the Palace Hotel of a motor-bicycle, the property of J. Turner, of 76 Yulin Road. Prosecutor states that after a long search he found his property in a Haining Road shop, where the proprietor had been instructed to sell the machine for Y.600, though it was valued at $650.

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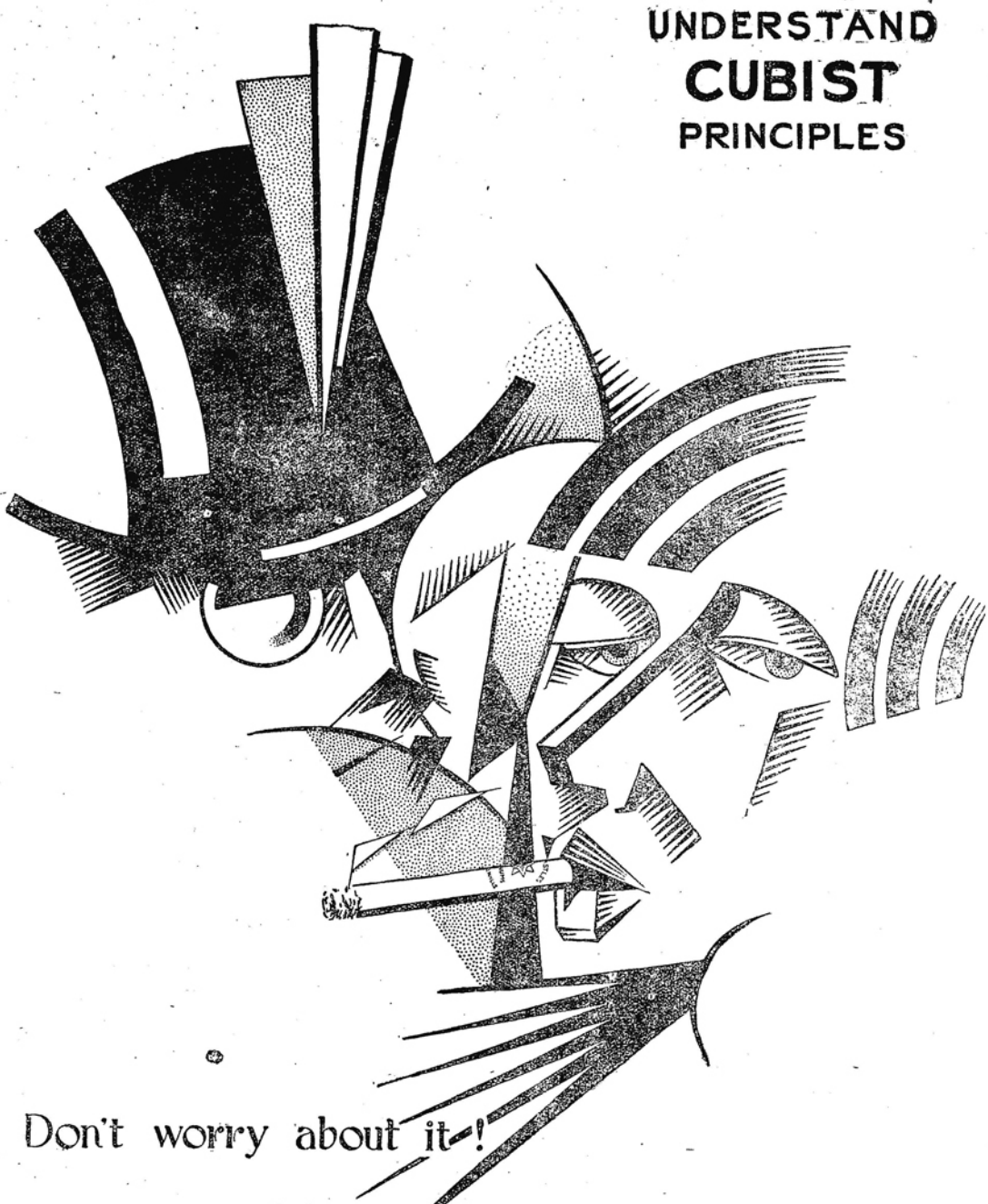

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

THE RUHR FRANCE'S TRUMP CARD IN SETTLEMENT OF REPARATIONS

M. Poincare Not Objecting to Experts' Recommendations if Within Terms of Peace: France's Expected Conditions of Acceptance

Paris, Apr. 11.

M. Poincaré has instructed the French delegation to the Reparations Commission that he does not wish to impose his will with regard to the experts' report. He leaves the delegation a free hand provided the decisions are strictly within the terms of the Peace Treaty.

The Reparations Commission has decided that the experts' reports provide a practical basis for a speedy solution of the reparations problem, and consequently it is prepared to proceed immediately, within the limits of its functions, to approve their conclusions and adopt their methods. The Commission, however, feels compelled to reserve its approval until the Government of the Reich are ready to ensure their cooperation in the scheme.

France's Stipulations.

Later.

As the echo of general applause to the experts' report dies, the difficulty of securing unanimity of the Governments with regard to the application of the experts' plan is becoming increasingly apparent. The French Government are officially silent, but the inspired press indicates that the Ruhr will be France's trump card in the forthcoming inter-Allied negotiations. France will consent to the economic evacuation of the Ruhr on condition that her Allies promise to join her in imposing sanctions in the event of Germany's failure to carry out the plan, and also partial, if not total, cancellation of inter-Allied debts, at least France's debt to Britain.

Undoubtedly France will insist on more effective guarantees than the experts propose.

The interpretation of the text of the experts' report is also likely to be disputed. For example, the Governmental *"Petit Parisien"* affirms that the experts contemplate progressive economic evacuation of the Ruhr. Thus the negotiations between the Governments are likely to be at the least laborious, especially if a speedy decision, which the experts are understood to consider essential to the success of their plan, is to be reached.—Reuter.

Berlin Inclining to Accept.

Berlin, Apr. 12.

The committee of the Economic Council of the Reich has recommended conditional acceptance of the experts' report. The Government will hear the views of the Premiers of the Federal States on Monday. There appears to be no doubt that it will decide that the report is acceptable as the basis of negotiation for a final reparations settlement.—Reuter.

EXPERTS' REPORT ON REPARATIONS

British Government Ready to Support Scheme in Its Entirety

London, Apr. 15.

In the House of Commons today, dealing with the reparation experts' report, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said that the Government attached so much importance to the agreed recomendations, which could be brought into immediate operation, that they were prepared to support the scheme in its entirety, provided all the other parties concerned were willing to take the same course, and had already communicated that view to the Governments concerned, including the United States.

Mr. MacDonald laid stress on the statement in the Drawes committee report that it was an indivisible whole and that the signatories renounced all responsibility if certain of their recommendations were adopted and others rejected.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin declared that Mr. MacDonald would have the united support of the British peoples in his attitude (cheers).

Sir Frederic Wise, Unionist member of Ilford, asked whether the pact fixing Germany's full liability at £6,600,000,000 still stood.

Mr. MacDonald replied that he was fully aware that the report only made provision for six years, beyond which certain machinery continued to operate for an unlimited period, but if all the Governments agreed to put the reports into execution, the total amount payable by Germany would be a matter of arrangement.—Reuter.

The Ruhr Agreements.

Paris, Apr. 15.

The protocol prolonging the agreements of the M.I.C.U.M. with the Ruhr industrialists states that the approval by the Reparations Commission of the experts' report has opened the way to the settlement of reparations and is likely to facilitate the opening of credits in favour of the Rheno-Westphalian collieries. The agreement is therefore prolonged until a general settlement of reparations and until June 15 at the latest.—Reuter.

Berlin, Apr. 15.

The Cabinet has decided to accept the experts' report as a basis for negotiations and will inform the Reparations Commission accordingly.

Apr. 16.

The leaders of the Social-Democrats and also of the non-Socialist parties have intimated their approval of the Government's action in connexion with acceptance of the reports of the Reparations Committees of Experts.—Reuter.

French Premier's Policy.

Paris, Apr. 16.

Speaking at a Democratic-Republican banquet last night for the first time since the publication of the reports of the Committees of Experts, M. Poincaré asseverated that the experts' reports provided the most eloquent justification of French policy, including the occupation of the Ruhr. The reports proved that Germany had fictitiously impoverished herself and was able to pay. The Reparations Commission must now draw up a definite plan to induce Germany to enact legislation and to organize the requisite control. The general lines of such a plan would undoubtedly pre-suppose the restoration of the fiscal and economic unity of the Reich. This, however, could not be restored following a mere declaration of principle. France must only exchange the pledges against more ample and more remunerative ones. There could be no question of withdrawing from the Ruhr before payment of the debts due to France, nor of releasing hold without safe-guarding means of restoring it immediately in case of need.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 15.

It is understood that the German Cabinet are prepared to accept the scheme of the Dawes Committee if the Allies will also accept it as the basis of negotiation along with certain issues outside the scope of the experts' report.—Reuter.

Paris, Apr. 14.—Parliament has adjourned till June.—Reuter.

Berlin, Apr. 14.—The negotiations between the Ruhr mine-owners and the M.I.C.U.M. have resulted in the prolongation of the agreements until June 15.—Reuter.

RUSSIAN MISSION IN ENGLAND

Premier's Address to the Delegates: Propaganda Must Cease, Contractual Agreements Be Carried Out, and British Interests in Russia Justlo Dealt With

London, Apr. 14.

The Russian Mission of about 20 persons, including 11 delegates besides experts, and headed by M. Rakowsky, arrived in taxi-cabs at the Foreign Office this morning, closely followed by an escort of detectives. The weather was cold and wet, and all of them were muffled in overcoats, with the exception of the Turkestan Commissary, who was resplendent in crimson and white robes with a turban.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald presided at the conference, which was held in the room of the Secretary of State. There were about 20 British representatives of the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade. The procedings were private, but the speeches will be published.

Mr. MacDonald in his speech welcomed the delegates. He said that the conference was for completion of the act of granting *de jure* recognition to Russia, but it in no way altered the fact that recognition had been granted without qualification. Mr. MacDonald pointed out that liquidation of past relations and peaceful relations of the future must be considered. He also referred to propaganda. The speech was then translated into Russian.

M. Rakowsky, replying in French, said that he was much gratified at the delegation's welcome. He expressed the opinion that close financial and commercial co-operation between Britain and Russia was necessary to both countries. Debts and treaties must be discussed in detail. M. Rakowsky laid special stress on the peace of Europe and the necessity for disarmament. He sympathetically referred to the League of Nations.

Later.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in the course of his speech at the Anglo-Russian Conference to-day, laid stress on the fact that the first essential to friendly and profitable relations was that Russia should desist from countenancing directly or indirectly anything smacking of an attempt to conduct propaganda among British subjects either at home of abroad. The people of this country would require more on this head than formal undertakings.

He did not think that, if the conference failed to reach an understanding, the Russians would be able to repeat the attempt and he did not see where else they could turn with better prospects.

Referring to the question of trade, Mr. MacDonald said that the people would risk nothing unless they knew that contractual agreements would be honoured to the last letter.

A Clean Slate Required.

Where injury had been done, he said, they must go to the utmost possible to redress it so that they could begin with a clean slate. Credit here was not in banks and governments, but in the deposits of private individuals, and unless they satisfied the mass of their people that they were fair and honest, no agreements could be honoured and they could not help each other.

The British people and British interests must be justly dealt with, the Premier declared, and he would not give way upon anything which would be regarded by his countrymen as paying an improper price for an agreement, nor would he expect it of Russians, but within these limits, he was sure, they could come to terms.

M. Rakowsky's Assurances.

Later.

In the course of his speech at the opening of the Anglo-Russian Conference to-day, the leader of the Russian delegation, M. Rakowsky said that they considered that there was no insurmountable obstacle in the way of a complete understanding.

He believed that, if account were taken of mutual interests, nothing stood in the way of solution of the question of pre-war debts and private claims. The British Government might also count on full and sincere goodwill regarding political questions.

The Soviet Government had no intention of reverting to the Tsarist policy of conquest and the partition of Oriental States into spheres of influence. The war had awakened the national consciousness of the peoples of the East and any attempt to obstruct that legitimate consciousness would not only be a crime against their own interests, but folly, seeing that in the long run such a policy would inevitably fail. If the two Governments adopted as a starting-point the principle of respecting the sovereignty of Oriental States, they would be free from difficulty in settling all questions pertaining to their interests in the East.

Steps Towards Disarmament.

Laying stress on the acute international situation, M. Rakowsky declared that disarmament must be carried to the farthest possible limits. Although the Russian Army in the last three years had been reduced from 6,000,000 to 500,000 men, Russia was ready, provided other States would do likewise, to take further decisive steps towards disarmament, and was ready also to contribute in every way to universal decrease of naval armaments, subject to certain political guarantees.

International Organization.

With recard to the League of Nations, the Soviet Government were prepared to associate themselves with a plan of international organization, which excluded measures of coercion and reprisal and into which all Governments entered of their own free-will and on a footing of perfect equality.

The first condition of stable peace was revision of the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaties connected with it. The reorganization of Europe could only be stable if based on the peoples and if it took into account the peoples' aspirations to national independence. The Soviet Government were therefore prepared to support and pursue a policy of revising frontiers on ethnographic principles, applying a plebiscite where necessary, as in Bessarabia.

The Soviet Government, M. Rakowsky declared, fully shared the British view that mutual non-intervention in internal affairs was one of the indispensable conditions for the creation of mutual confidence.

The Conference finally appointed an organizing committee to supervise its labours.—Reuter.

Premier's Tactful Speech.

April, 15.

The newspapers generally congratulate Mr. Ramsay MacDonald on his firm and yet tactful speech at the opening of the Anglo-Russian Conference.

The Conservative organs are sceptical of the success of the Conference and are inclined to question the Russian motives, but the Liberal organs cordially welcome the Conference and approve Mr. MacDonald's policy.

The "Times" states that Mr. MacDonald made the best of an extremely unpleasant situation and encouraged no illusions. M. Rakowski's declaration, it states, was tactless.

The "Daily Telegraph" thinks that the Russians are merely out for material advantages and that, therefore, the negotiations are unlikely to lead to anything.

The "Daily Express" declares that the speech of Mr. MacDonald was worthy of the chief spokesman of the Empire.

The "Daily News" urges that the Conference should be given a fair chance by the abandonment of irritating pinpricks, as instanced by the bankers' memorandum and a section of the press.

The "Manchester Guardian" hopes and believes that the meeting is the beginning of the genuine re-settlement of Europe.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 15.

The Anglo-Russian Conference met at the Foreign Office at three this afternoon and adjourned at 3.45. The Conference will meet again to-morrow afternoon.

A *communiqué* states that the subject of the treaties between Britain and the former Russian Empire was raised and was referred to a sub-committee for preliminary examination.—Reuter.

RUSSIAN CREDIT IN ENGLAND

London Bankers' Scheme for Restoration: Guarantees Required from Russia

London, Apr. 13.

Leading London bankers have forwarded a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in which they suggest steps by which Russian credit in England can be restored. They are of the opinion that recognition of public and private debts should be made, that private property of foreigners should be restored, and that sanctity of private contract should be re-established. Russia should guarantee that private property should henceforth be freed of the danger of confiscation. British bankers, industrialists and traders should be enabled to deal, without Government interference, with similar private institutions in Russia. The Russian Government should abandon propaganda against the institutions of other countries.

The memorandum dissipates the view, which it is supposed is entertained by the Russian Government, that upon the settlement very large amounts would immediately be available from any source. It points out that investors will only supply money where conditions appear safest and full confidence has again been created. With regard to the numerous fields for the investment of permanent capital, it shows that Britain in the past three years has on an average lent to the British Empire £80,000,000 a year, whereas the total available to lend throughout the world last year was £97,000,000. It declares that banking credits are bound to remain limited while foreign trade is subject to Russian Government control.—Reuter.

SHIPPING LOCK-OUT IN BRITAIN

General Throughout Country to Put Pressure Upon Strikers at Southampton

London, Apr. 10.

The Southampton strikers have resolved by an overwhelming majority not to return to work.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 11.

The Shipbuilding Employers' Federation announce that the Southampton strikers not having resumed work, the lock-out notices throughout the country will be effective to-night.

Apr. 12.

The shipbuilding lock-out is in general operation throughout the country to-day, but the Southampton yards are remaining open in order to give the strikers an opportunity to obey the instructions of their executives to resume work. A few strikers returned this morning but there is no general resumption.—Reuter.

The Coal Mine Grievance.

London, Apr. 11.

No immediate crisis will result from the miners' ballot. The question of strike action is not involved. The next move will probably be in the direction of a court of inquiry.

Later.

It has officially been decided to grant the miners' request for a court of inquiry.—Reuter.

Extra Work at Wembley.

London, Apr. 11.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressing the workers at Wembley today, thanked them on behalf of the Cabinet and country for their decision to remove the embargo on overtime. He said that the recent strike had caused the Government anxiety because undoubtedly it

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had retarded the progress of the Exhibition. Therefore, he took the responsibility of asking the trade union officials to relax the overtime rule with regard to the Exhibition, which had got to be a success if only because it meant much to the British working-classes.—Reuter.

Work Conditionally Resumed.

London, Apr. 15.

The Southampton shipyard workers have decided to resume work on condition of an immediate conference to secure uniformity between the Southampton and London rates of pay.—Reuter.

Engineers' Request for a Court of Inquiry

London, Apr. 14.

A mass meeting of the Southampton engineers this morning opened dramatically, a granddaughter of the late General Booth singing "Abide with me", and the audience joining in the singing of the last verse. Subsequently the meeting passed a resolution calling on the Government to institute a court of inquiry into the claim for increased wages and the cause of the Southampton dispute. The resolution will be submitted to the Premier by a deputation tomorrow.—Reuter.

THE KIEFF TRIAL

Chicherin's Discourteous Reply to French Attempt to Save Russian Professors

Moscow, Apr. 12.

M. Chicherin in a Note to M. Poincaré, in reply to the latter's telegram of April 9, indignantly rejects France's attempt to interfere in the Kieff trial on behalf of "spies."

He recapitulates the many attempts France has made to interfere in Russian affairs and the losses Russia has suffered thereby. The Soviet Government, he declares, since the earliest days has never allowed anyone to interfere and will certainly not begin now. He says that naturally France knows about the activities of the spying organization.

M. Chicherin concludes with a friendly proposal to France to cease this attitude and take a view leading to mutual good relations.—Reuter.

∴ France had appealed to Moscow to spare the lives of certain eminent Russian men of learning on trial at Kieff on charges of counter-revolutionary work. Four of them were sentenced to death.—Ed.

British Government Unwilling to Make Representations to the Soviet

London, Apr. 14.

Replying to Mr. A. S. Sandeman, Unionist Member for Middleton and Prestwich, in the House of Commons to-day with regard to M. Poincaré's request to Britain to make representations to the Soviet with regard to the number of intelligentsia tried at Kieff for high treason, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the Government did not feel that it could usefully make any official representation to the Soviet in that connexion. The Soviet was well aware of the British Government's views.—Reuter.

EXPELLED RUSSIAN BISHOP

Penniless Pilgrim Heartily Welcomed in Warsaw: Privations of Prison

Warsaw, Apr. 13.

Monsignor Cieplak arrived at Warsaw from Riga to-day. His emaciated features testified to the privations of his imprisonment. He was greeted by a number of ecclesiastical dignitaries, including Monsignor Lauri, the Papal Nuncio, representatives of many Polish societies and huge crowds. Traffic was held up. Enthusiasts unharnessed the horses of the Archbishop's carriage and dragged it along themselves.

Monsignor Cieplak states that *en route* from Russia he was kept 10 days at the Cheka headquarters, where he was photographed a dozen times for an unknown purpose. He was then taken to Heiworz on the Latvian frontier and told to leave Russia immediately. He was penniless and borrowed from the Latvian railwaymen money to take him to Riga.—Reuter.

RUSSIA'S POLICY UNCHANGED

Bolshevism Still Predominant Feature of Trotsky's Creed: Insulting Britain

Moscow, Apr. 15.

M. Trotsky, Commissary for War and President of the Revolutionary Council, in the course of a speech in Tiflis on April 11, denied the report of the local press that he was opposed to war at all costs over the Bessarabian question. He said that the situation between Russia and Rumania in this connexion was abnormal. Poland and France stood behind Rumania. "France is developing a mad campaign against us in Poland and is trying to drive us into a quarrel with Turkey."

"Mr. MacDonald's Cabinet," M. Trotzky added, "has absolutely no principles, nevertheless the success of the Anglo-Russian conference would strengthen its position."

In conclusion, the Commissary for War, declared that the Bolsheviks had not changed since the night of October 25, 1917.—Reuter.

Note:—The last statement refers to the formation of the first Bolshevik Military Committee.—Reuter.

Moscow, Apr. 14.

The Committees of the National Democratic and the Menshevik Parties in Tiflis have been arrested.—Reuter.

RUMANIA'S CLAIM TO BESSARABIA

Rumours of Defensive Treaty with Japan for Protection of Possessions

London, Apr. 14.

In the House of Commons today, replying to Mr. William Ormsby-Gore, Unionist Member for Stafford, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that he had no information with regard to any new defensive treaty between Japan and Rumania giving mutual guarantees against Russian invasion of Bessarabia and the Japanese possessions in Saghalien.

Sir Archibald Sinclair, Liberal Member for Caithness and Sutherland, asked whether Japan had yet ratified the treaty which she signed with Britain, France and Italy with regard to Bessarabia. Mr. Macdonald asked for notice of the question.—Reuter.

"COPEC" CONFERENCE CONCLUDED

Proposal to Form a Publicity Bureau: Investigation of Causes of Unemployment

London, Apr. 13.

The International Conference on Christian Politics, Economics and Citizenship, the "Copec," has concluded. It has appointed a Continuation Committee of 50 members to carry on the work to make the influence of the "Copec" a permanent factor in the life of the churches; to establish a permanent organization to interpret the purposes of the "Copec," probably in the form of a publicity bureau, but possibly a federal council of the churches.

The Conference passed a resolution in favour of the churches making an inquiry into the causes of unemployment and decided to ask the heads of the churches for an inquiry and advice by churches in regard to birth control.—Reuter.

THE OIL SCANDAL

President Coolidge's Vigorous Criticism of Irregularities in Investigation

Washington, Apr. 11.

President Coolidge in a strongly worded message to the Senate says that the investigations of the oil scandals should be conducted in accordance with the Constitution. He protests against the whole series of investigations proceeding as, in effect, criminal prosecutions, in which the requirement that the evidence must be presented before the Grand Jury is evaded.

The President encloses a letter from Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, which says that, should the unnecessary interference in the proper exercise of his duties continue, neither he nor any other man of character could take the responsibility for the Treasury.—Reuter's America Service.

AUSTRALIA'S COAST DEFENCE

Two 10,000-ton Cruisers to be Built: Port Darwin as a Naval Base

Sydney, Apr. 10.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Commonwealth Prime Minister, speaking at the dinner to the Admirals and senior officers of the Special Service Squadron, declared that the Government's decision to lay down two 10,000 ton cruisers was in the interests of Australia's own defence in order to provide very useful co-operation with the British Navy. The Commonwealth Government was convinced that in the interests of world peace the decision of the British Government with regard to Singapore was not final.

Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, replying, said that if the Dominions provided sufficient cruisers to guard the coast lines while the main fleet was doing its proper business, they would feel perfectly safe. The most perfect base for the Australian cruisers would be Port Darwin. There was an excellent repair base in Sydney.—Reuter.

END OF THE AUSTRALIA

Sunk in Accordance With Washington Treaty Amid National Mourning

Sydney, Apr. 12.

The scuttling of the battlecruiser Australia, 20 miles outside Sydney Heads, in accordance with the Washington Treaty, amounted to a national ceremony. The warship was laden with floral tributes with cards expressing the people's attachment and regret. Australian warships fired a salute and aeroplanes dropped wreaths. The light cruisers of the Special Service Squadron circled around the battle cruiser, fired a salute and hoisted the Australian flag. They then headed for Brisbane. The sinking occupied 25 minutes.—Reuter.

GREECE NEVER AT REST

More Arrests of Military and Naval Officers on Charges of Revolution-Plotting

Athens, Apr. 12.

Owing to indications that reactionary rouble was brewing, the Government has ordered the arrest of 18 superior military and naval retired officers, including General Leonardopoulos, the leader of the last counter-revolution, who was sentenced to death and recently pardoned, and General Constandinopoulos, a fanatical Royalist.

The Minister of the Interior announces that considerable quantities of revolvers and cartridges, recently bought in Athens by reactionaries, have been confiscated. The leaders of the projected movement, which was evidently intended to break out after the plebiscite, have been arrested.

Colonel Metaxas met the Premier, M. Papanastasiou, yesterday evening and protested against the arrests. The Premier replied that the Government were determined to crush any attempt at disorders.—Reuter.

ANTI-SOVIET PLOTS

Extensive Organization to Put Prominent Bolsheviks Under Ground

Moscow, Apr. 2.

A counter-revolutionary association called the National Society for Defending the Native Land is the subject of an inquiry at Leningrad. M. Boris Savinoff is alleged to be head of the organization, the agents of which are stated to be employees of the Polish Intelligence Service.

The association's activities are reported to have extended to the provinces. Many murders and outrages against Soviet supporters and Jews are alleged. The accused persons number 107.—Reuter.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS UNDEFINED

World-Wide Registry by Seismographs but No Trace of Locality

Victoria, B.C., Apr. 15.

The officials of the Dominion observatory were mystified yesterday by a series of very intense seismographic shocks, which lasted four hours. The Superintendent of the obervatory estimates that the centre of the disturbance was about 1,500 miles from Victoria, probably in the vicinity of the North Aleutian Islands or in Alaska.—Reuter.

Buenos Aires, Apr. 15.

An earthquake occurred at Santiago de Chile at 5.35 yesterday afternoon. The casualties and damage are up to the present unknown.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 15.

The Chilean Legation in London is in regular communication with Santiago and hopes that the earthquake recorded throughout the world occurred in the sea.

Santiago de Chile, Apr. 15.

The reports of an earthquake in Chile are baseless.—Reuter

Later.

The observatories of Belgium, Italy and Egypt recorded yesterday afternoon a violent earthquake shock over 6,000 miles distant. The instruments of Faenza Observatory vibrated for four hours. The Observatory of Helouan described the shock as being equal in intensity to the Japanese earthquake in September.—Reuter.

Manila's Experience.

Manila, Apr. 15.

A severe submarine earthquake occurred at 12.30 this morning at 7 degrees north latitude on the eartern border of the Philippine Deep, 200 kilometres from Mindanao and 1,000 kilometres from Manila. A tidal wave is feared. A slightly perceptible disturbance here continued for two hours.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WILL LABOUR CONTROL INDIA?

Debate in House of Commons: Demand for a Specific Statement of Policy

London, Apr. 15.

In the House of Commons today, the debate on India was initiated by Viscount Curzon, Conservative member for Battersea, who proposed a motion expressing anxiety with regard to recent events in India and regretting the lack of a clear statement of the Government's policy in that connexion. He asked for a specific declaration that the Government would not depart from the letter or spirit of the Government of India Act of 1919.

Mr. Robert Richards, Under-Secretary of State for India, replying, said that the Government of India were at present investigating the difficulties of the Act with full concurrence of His Majesty's Government, who considered the proposal of Mr. J. Scurr, Labour member for Mile End, to appoint a commission for this purpose as premature.—Reuter.

THE BOOTLEGGERS

New Coastguard Boats at Cost of $25,000,000 to Check Liquor Runners

Washington, Apr. 11.

For the purpose of a more active campaign against liquor runners the coastguard service has opened bids for 30 new craft to cost, with others yet to be purchased, $25,000,000.

This fleet will be supplemented with 20 destroyers.—Reuter's American Service.

HONDURAS REBELLION

American Government Sending Envoy to Mediate Between the Belligerents

Washington, Apr. 11.

The Navy Department reports that a revolutionary airman has bombed the capital of Honduras, destroying a large number of houses. The dead included many women and children. Four bombs narrowly missed the American landing forces, who were apparently mistaken for enemies. The American commander has protested.

President Coolidge has instructed Mr. Sumner Welles, the American Commissioner in Santo Domingo, to proceed to Tegucigalpa and offer the friendly assistance of the United States for the establishment of peace in Honduras.—Reuter's American Service.

SHORTAGE OF REVENUE IN THE PUNJAB

Taxation Inadequate Without Salt Levy: Water-rate to be Increased

Lahore, Apr. 13.

The serious effect of the Legislative Assembly's failure to sanction the salt tax of two rupees is reflected in the upsetting of the financial programme of the provincial Governments concerned.

The Punjab Government, who were anticipating a reduction of their contribution to the Central Government, only proposed to levy fresh taxation to the amount of 20 lakhs of rupees. This is now inadequate and they have therefore decided to increase the water-rate in order to secure 75 lakhs annually, but, as the spring crop has already been sown, the yield this year will be only 25 lakhs from the winter crop.

The Punjab Government hope to carry on in the current year with the help of the Government of India. They will have sufficient funds from next year.—Reuter.

THE LATE HERR STINNES

Embittered Comment by French Journals

Paris, Apr. 11.

A remark by the "*Journal*" that "Herr Stinnes died on the day the experts passed judgment on his mischievous work: a centre of Nationalist reaction, he was the evil genius of the peace," sums up generally the embittered comments of the French press.

Berlin, Apr. 11.

By the tragic irony of fate Germany's greatest industrialist and richest man died without seeing the reports of the committees of experts. He had been ill for weeks and had only recently been operated on for gall-stones. His condition did not improve and he was removed to a nursing-home ten days ago when he was operated on a second time. He died fully conscious in the presence of his family.—Reuter.

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NAVAL LIMITATIONS

Action by Pres. Coolidge

Washington, Apr. 11.

It is stated that to-day the President will oppose the converston of four coal-burning battleships into oil-burners, if this would lead other nations, who are parties to the Naval Limitation Treaty, to make a similar outlay. —Reuter's American Service.

THE MINERS' DISPUTE

A New Secretary

London, Apr. 10.

Mr. A. J. Cook, a miners' agent in Rhondda Valley, has been elected secretary of the Miners' Federation. Mr. Cook was formerly a Baptist preacher, is a fluent speaker and a disciple of Karl Marx. He is an active participant in the so-called miners' minority movement.

In an interview, Mr. Cook said that it would be difficult to avert a stoppage in the coalfields unless the demand of the miners for a living wage was conceded.

Owners' Offer Rejected.

Apr. 11.

An official announcement states that the miners' ballot has resulted in rejection of the owners' wage proposals by 338,000 to 322,000 votes.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 15.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. Tom Shaw, has appointed a court of inquiry into the coal-mining dispute, consisting of Baron Buckmaster (Chairman), Mr. Reuter Brunner and Mr. A. C. Cameron.—Reuter.

THE BENGAL BUDGET

Several Rejected Items Now Certified by Governor

Darjeeling, Apr. 14.

The Governor of Bengal, the Earl of Lytton, has decided to certify a number of Budget items, rejected as a result of the Swarajist policy of throwing out portions of the Bengal Budget. The refusal to grant the Ministers' salaries, however, will again be submitted to the Provincial Council. A number of members in the Education and Medical Departments are likely to be discharged as a result of their pay not being sanctioned, which the Earl of Lytton says he has no power to restore.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Prince Roland Bonaparte

Paris, Apr. 14.

The death is announced of Prince Roland Bonaparte, son of Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte, and grandson of Prince Lucien Bonaparte, a younger brother of Napoleon I, at the age of 65.

Prince Roland Bonaparte was a Member of the Institute and was twice President of the French Geographical Society. He was much interested in travel and scientific research.—Reuter.

BRITISH ROUND-WORLD AIR FLIGHT

New Gear for Squadron Leader MacLaren at Corfu

London, Apr. 11.

A telegram from Corfu yesterday states that the new engine for the British world flight air-boat will arrive to-morrow. The air-boat is lying on the beach between the lake and the sea. An attempt to tow it to Corfu by Greek and British destroyers was unsuccessful owing to the strong surf. A British destroyer will make a last attempt to tow the air-boat to-day. Simultaneously, a party of sailors will be sent overland with gear to fit up the engine on the spot if the towing is unsuccessful. —Reuter.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY OF LANCASHIRE

Competition in India and the Far East: A Plea for Protection

London, Apr. 15.

In the House of Commons to-day, at the committee stage of the Trade Facilities Bill, Mr. J. R. Remer, Conservative Member for Macclesfield, referring to the competition the Lancashire textile industry is meeting in the Far East and India, moved an amendment that no loan or guarantee should be given in connexion with the erection of cotton-mills or provision of cotton machinery outside the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. Graham, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, emphasized that no guarantee had been given to any cotton undertaking outside the United Kingdom. The real problem behind the amendment was how employment in Britain would be affected under guarantee. The advisory committee must take all circumstances into account. He was unable to believe that the committee would exclude a large view of the problem of unemployment. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Remer to withdraw the amendment, which was negatived without a division. —Reuter.

LIBERALS DISPLEASED WITH LABOUR

Premier's Contemptuous Way with His Patrons Much Resented

London, Apr. 16.

The dissatisfaction of the Liberal Party at the attitude of the Labour members of Parliament towards it found vent at an important meeting at the House of Commons last night. Mr. Asquith presiding. Over a hundred Liberal members attended.

A feature of the gathering was a vigorous speech by Mr. Lloyd George, protesting against the Government's contemptuous treatment of the Liberals although it was dependent upon them for its existence.

Mr. Asquith approved the views expressed by Mr. Lloyd George.

It was decided to hold another meeting after Easter, when the future attitude of the Party towards the Government would be decided upon.—Reuter.

EIGHT NEW 10,000 TONS CRUISER

U. S. Naval Armament

Washington, Apr. 15.

The House of Representatives Naval Committee has approved a bill authorizing construction of eight fast 10,000-ton cruisers, costing $11,000,000 each, exclusive of armament, and also six gunboats, costing $70,000 each, for use in Chinese waters. The Committee also approved a proposal to convert four battleships to oil-burners and to provide them with additional protection against submarines and aircraft.

The Committee reported another bill providing for the establishment of a naval aviation base at Sand Point, California.—Reuter's American Service.

KING OF RUMANIA VISITING FRANCE

Rumours of an Alliance

Paris, Apr. 10.

The King and Queen of Rumania arrived here to-day primarily for an official visit after their Coronation in 1922, but the presence of the Rumanian Premier and Foreign Minister, M. Duca, lends political significance to the visit. There is unofficial talk of an alliance between France and Rumania, following the alliance between France and Czecho-Slovakia.

M. Duca, in an interview, said that he hoped the negotiations between Russia and Rumania, which broke down recently in Vienna, might be resumed.—Reuter.

FRANCO-JAPANESE FAR EASTERN RELATIONS

London, Apr. 11.

Denying the reports of the conclusion of a Japanese-Rumanian defensive alliance directed against Russia, the Diplomatic Correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that it is believed, however, that a Franco-Japanese understanding is now in existence, covering Pacific and Chinese questions. He refers to the recent co-operation of the French Minister and the Japanese Cabinet at Tokio and says that it has not escaped notice that the Japanese delegate on the League of Nations Council, who formerly voted on the side of Britain in Central European issues, voted with France at the two last sessions on questions like the Saar.—Reuter.

RUSSO-GERMAN CONSULAR PACT

Moscow, Apr. 12.

A Russo-German consular pact is expected to be signed shortly. In this connexion, the Russian press here points out that the new pact, judging from the old international law, contains the following provisions:—(1) No honorary Consuls shall be appointed so far as Germany and Soviet Russia are concerned; (2) Consuls' premises of both countries shall not be tresspassed on; (3) Consuls of both countries shall be accorded rights to manage reports on marriages, divorces, and births from their respective citizens; (4) Consuls of both countries shall specify the natures of crimes committed by those who are to be arrested according to the national laws of country.

In the meantime, the Soviet Government is also negotiating with Turkey and Persia with a view to the conclusion of consular pacts with these countries.—Eastern News Agency.

THE MASTER OF BALLIOL

London, Apr. 12.

The death is announced of Dr. Arthur Lionel Smith, M.A., LL.D., Master of Balliol College, Oxford.—Reuter.

MR. CHURCHILL'S RETURN TO POLITICS

London, Apr. 13.

Mr. Winston Churchill has accepted the invitation of Sir Archibald Salvidge, one of the stalwarts of Conservatism in Lancashire, on behalf of the Liverpool Working Men's Conservative Association and Women's Unionist Federation, to address a political meeting early in May.—Reuter.

THE GREEK PLEBISCITE

Athens, Apr. 14.

It is semi-officially stated that the returns of the plebiscite so far show a 75 per cent. majority

BELGIUM AND GERMAN REPARATIONS

Brussels, Apr. 14.

The Cabinet consider that the report of the Reparations Commission's expert committees constitutes a useful basis for an equitable and practical settlement.—Reuter.

BELGIAN TREATY WITH JAPAN

Brussels, Apr. 14.

The Cabinet has approved the commercial treaty with Japan, based on the most-favoured nation principle.—Reuter.

CHANGE IN CONTROL OF "MORNING POST"

London, Apr. 13.

On the score of heavy taxation, Countess Bathurst announces that she has relinquished control of the "Morning Post" to a body of Conservatives, with whom the Duke of Northumberland is associated. It is stated that the paper's past traditions and policy will be preserved.—Reuter.

AMERICAN ROUND WORLD FLIGHT

Major Martin Forced to Descend on Sea

Sitka, Apr. 11.

The American military aviators who are flying around the world have arrived at Sitka.—Reuter's American Service.

Tokio, Apr. 14.

The American destroyers arrived at Hitokappu Bay in the Etorofy Island yesterday morning after a fine trip. The island is surrounded by big icefloes, which precludes reaching Bettobu. This will necessitate a change in the landing place to Hitokappu Bay, which is ideal for this purpose.

Cordova, Alaska, Apr. 14.

The American aviators, who are flying around the world, arrived safely to-day at Seward, Alaska, from Sitka.—Reuter's American Service.

Chiguik, Alaska, Apr. 16.

Major Martin, the leader of the United States world flight, was forced to descend to the sea while on his way here. It is believed that he is safe in Kialogvik Bay. The remaining planes have arrived here safely.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICA AND ARMAMENTS

Washington, Apr. 12.

Senator King has tabled a resolution authorizing the President to appoint reppresentatives to confer with the Armament Commission of the League of Nations.—Reuter's American Service.

YUGO-SLAVIA'S DEBT TO UNITED STATES

Washington, Apr. 12.

The Yugo-Slavian Debt Funding Commission, previous to its departure for Europe, announced that Yugo-Slavia was unable at present to meet her obligations to the United States but it was hoped that it would be possible at a future date to contrive a plan for refunding the debts.

No action would be taken by Yugo-Slavia which would be calculated to prejudice the position of the United States among creditor nations.—Reuter's American Service.

TRADE DEPRESSION IN RUSSIA

Riga, Apr. 13.

It is reported from Moscow that the figures of the trade turnover for March show a decrease of 30 per cent. as compared with February. A section of the press regards the depression as temporary, but the "*Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn*" considers it lasting. —Reuter.

LAUSANNE TREATY RATIFIED

London, Apr. 11.

The House of Commons last night passed the Ratification of the Lausanne Treaty Bill by a unanimous vote.—Reuter.

CZECH TREATY WITH HOLLAND

The Hague, Apr. 10.

The Second Chamber to-day approved the commercial treaty between Holland and Czecho-Slovakia.—Reuter.

LATEST TELEGRAMS

NAVAL DISARMAMENT

How Britain is Falling Behind Owing to Washington Undertaking

London, Apr. 16.

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to Sir Archibald Sinclair, Liberal Member for Caithness and Sutherland, Mr. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Admiralty, stated that since the Washington Treaty was signed Britain had laid down the submarine O1; and Japan, as far as was known, had laid down six light cruisers, 17 destroyers and 13 submarines.

Later.

The question of disarmament was raised in the House of Commons to-day by Major-Gen. J. E. B. Seely, Liberal Member for the Isle of Wight, who referred to France's great air force. He did not believe that it was directed against us, but others were joining in the air race.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald replied that he intended, immediately some of the present difficulties in Europe were removed, to face seriously the question of armament, because it was very important that there should be no reason for misunderstanding not merely between France and Britain, but between the other Powers participating in the unfortunate air race. It would be far better if we could get a sort of Washington agreement so that France, Italy, ourselves and everybody else might feel some measure of security.—Reuter.

BRITISH ROUND WORLD AIR-FLIGHT

London, Apr. 16.

A telegram from Corfu, dated yesterday, states that Squadron-Leader MacLaren's air-boat has been towed to Corfu and the engine installed by H.M.S. Emperor of India. A successful trial was made in the evening. Squadron-Leader MacLaren will leave for Athens this morning.—Reuter.

Athens, Apr. 17.

Squadron-Leader MacLaren left Athens for Cairo this morning.—Reuter.

CO-OPERATIVE SELLING OF RUBBER

Finances Forthcoming When Scheme Adopted: U. S. Buying Agencies

London, Apr. 16.

The Rubber-Growers' Association are circularizing rubber-producing companies in the United Kingdom asking whether in principle they favour co-operative selling of rubber under the auspices of the Association and urging members whole-heartedly to support the proposed scheme, in view of the advantage the limited number of buyers at present have over the multitude of sellers and Mr. Hoover's recent letter recommending action with a view to permitting American purchasers of rubber and other raw materials to establish joint buying agencies.

The Association express their willingness to establish a strong committee for the purpose of working out details. They express the opinion that, in view of the control of exports from Malaya and Ceylon, co-operative selling presents no serious difficulties and say that it is anticipated that the necessary finance could be easily obtained if an adequately supported scheme were adopted.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S ELECTIONS

Berlin, Apr. 16.

It is reported that the Government has postponed the elections from May 4 to May 11 in order that the expected swing to the Right shall not influence the elections in France.—Reuter.

Later.

It is officially stated that the elections will be held on May 4, as originally arranged.—Reuter.

BUILDING TRADE CRISIS

London, Apr. 16.

A crisis in the building trade affecting 700,000 workers, is threatened. The men are demanding an increase of wages by 2d. an hour. The employers offered an advance of ½d. an hour. A conference of the building trade unions in London has decided to submit the employers' offer to a ballot.—Reuter.

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FROM THE FOUR WINDS

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL PAYS AT LAST

The Pessimists Defeated: Fifty Years of Work Without Wages: A Comedian's Publicity Trick: Civic Improvements to Wrangle Over

From our Manchester Correspondent.

Manchester, Mar. 2.

We have heard of angry Manchester fathers, who, instead of cutting their erring sons off with the traditional shilling fobbed them off with dusty bundles of shares in the local Ship Canal. They found it easier, and thought it cheaper, to part with their dreams than their shillings. Time, however, has been on the side of the prodigals. In 1924 their obdurate sires see the sooty Lancashire dust settling on their idle spinning frames while the prodigals may be buying Rolls Royces' with the long deferred Ship Canal dividends. 5½ p.c. is to be paid on all the share capital held by the public for 1923. The Ship Canal is a paying proposition at last.

The possibility of such a dividend would have been scoffed at 10 years ago. Although the Canal had been opened at that time for 22 years it had never paid a dividend. There were thousands, especially in Liverpool, who said that it never would. They were first proven wrong in 1915, when ¾ p.c. was paid. When 5 p.c. was paid on all shares held by the public for 1920 these croakers said that it was only because it was a boom year—it would never happen again. The reduced dividends in the succeeding year lent some colour to this prophecy but 1923 has disproved it. It is said that 6 p.c. could have easily been paid but the directors thought it wise to pursue a cautious policy. Great things are prophesied for the future. As the Canal was held up for 16 days during 1923 as a result of the unofficial docker's strike there seems some likelihood of even better times. During 1923 more than five million tons of seaborne merchandise traffic was handled by the Canal, and since 1913 the gross receipts have been more than doubled. The Company is now petitioning Parliament for permission to deepen by 2 ft. the lower reaches of the Canal and so attract larger shipping. We in Manchester have waited 22 years for our share in the harvest of the sea. It is coming at last, and it is going to be no inconsiderable proportion.

RECREATION IN ANCOATS.

Few men have a wider circle of friends among famous men than Mr. Charles Rowley, the founder of the "Recreation in Ancoats" movement. The news that in his 85th year he has been compelled by ill health to relinquish his good work in that insalubrious slum will cause general regret. For 47 years he has lured famous writers, lecturers, artists, poets, musicians, anarchists, socialists, bishops, travellers, Jesuits, and philosophers to a bare hall in the heart of the worst part of Ancoats to address his audiences. Bernard Shaw has said that the deaths of half the famous men in Great Britain for the last 40 years can be directly traced to visits they had made to Manchester at the siren call of Mr. Rowley. The programme invariably consisted of an hour's music, and an hour's talk by a man of note. Ancoats was the setting for it but the audience came from everywhere but Ancoats. It sorry denizens eyed inimically the weekly incursion of well dressed people from the outer suburbs who indulged in "Recreation in Ancoats." For themselves, they remained faithful to the proletarian custom of spending Sunday afternoons in bed after the best dinner in the week.

The movement was always held together by Mr. Rowley. After him the attraction was the music, and the lecture was a bad third. Despite the publicity it obtained through Mr. Rowley's well known book, "Fifty Years of Work without Wages" it never attracted more than seven or eight hundred people. They used to applaud the views of every speaker with attractive impartiality. It made no difference if the lecturer of one week was flatly contradicted by the one on the week following. The audience agreed with them both.

SUNDAY CONCERTS GONE.

The stopping of these Sunday afternoon lectures and concerts will be a great loss to the winter amenities of Manchester. It will be all the more seriously felt through the recent closing of the Sunday League Concerts. The promoters of these concerts thought they would be warmly patronized by the thousands of people in Manchester who have nothing to do on a Sunday night and nowhere to go. For months they petitioned our strait-laced City Fathers for permission to hold them. It was granted at last on condition that they were held after Church hours. But the habits of a lifetime are not broken in a week. Sunday is still taken very seriously in Manchester and although famous singers were engaged who cannot be heard for twice the money on a week-day, the concerts were ill patronized and had to be closed. Only one during the whole of the season paid for itself. The promoters ascribe their failure to the inconvenient hour imposed for starting the concerts and to the exorbitant rent charged by the municipal authorities for the Free Trade Hall where they were held. It is not improbable that the concerts broadcast by wireless every Sunday put the *coupde-grace* to the enterprise.

A PUBLICITY STUNT.

One morning last week the whole of Market Street was held up by a huge crowd of people who did considerable damage to shop fronts and other property. The cause of the turmoil was a publicity "stunt" engineered by Fred Barnes, a popular comedian appearing at one of the local theatres. He said that it was a belief of his that the average man did not notice things outside his own personal range. In support of this idea he made a bet with another man that he could hide a £100 note in Market Street and leave it for 24 hours and no one would find it. Local newspapers gave publicity to the bet and for 24 hours this busy thoroughfare was the scene of extraordinary sights. The searchers removed the street grids and climbed up office and shop fronts. Much glass was broken by people poking around glass signs and shop fronts with walking sticks and umbrellas. The 24 hours were up at 11 a.m. and at that time Mr. Barnes arrived in Market St. to see if anyone had found the note. Excavations were being made in a short street leading down to the entrance to the "Manchester Guardian" offices. Mr. Barnes stooped down at this point and pulled up some stones and searched in the soil below. But the note was gone. It had been found by an unemployed workman named Browning. The police have warned Mr. Barnes that he must not indulge in these little games in future. Most of the searchers have a grudge against him for the manner and position of the hiding place. They argue that it was not strictly in Market Street and that to hide it in the ground and then cover the spot with heavy paving stones was not very sporting.

AN INSALUBRIOUS STREAM.

Manchester is well known to stand on the Irwell but its proudest citizens are a little diffident about the charms of that insalubrious river. It meanders through the Salford side of the town in a great loop, a huge ditch of black and muddy water flowing between soot-encrusted banks. A scheme has recently obtained considerable publicity which has for its object the excavation of a culvert to do away with this loop of river and convert its bed into a subteranean tram road. It is said that three tracks of trams, a roadway, and a canal could be put into the river bed.

The advocates of the scheme do not press it, however, on aesthetic grounds. The growing congestion of the city's main thoroughfares has brought it to the foreground. Opponents of the idea are demanding a tube railway of the London pattern as a solution of our difficulties. The City Council has appointed a Committee to investigate the feasibility and probable cost of such underground railway to run beneath the main arteries of the City. One of the Councillors complained that it was gloomy enough above ground in Manchester without burrowing beneath the ground like a lot of rabbits. Traffic congestion is now so acute in Manchester that on an average one person is killed and 25 injured every week as a result of street accidents.

SHORT TIME IN COTTON.

Nothing could better illustrate the present depressed condition of the cotton spinning industry in Lancashire than the overwhelming majority for systematic short time in the recent ballot. The owners of over 22 million spindles spinning American cotton have expressed their willingness to limit working hours to 26½ for the next three months. The opposition owned less than two million spindles. It is an unhappy commentary on our existing industrial organization that this should be the only way of coping with the problem. Our Lancashire operative spinners are the most highly skilled in the world. The world is crying out for the products of their nimble fingers. For the next three months those fingers are to be half idle. The loss will be greater than if the workers had a month's strike. This is ca' canny with a vengeance.

THE PICCADILLY SITE.

Manchester is once more agitated with the old question of the Piccadilly site. The city infirmary used to stand on this, the finest central site in the town. The infirmary was pulled down about 12 years ago and since then the City Fathers have been quarrelling about what they shall build on the site. It is the property of the municipality. The magnificent Manchester Reference Library used to be housed in the old Town Hall. It was first intended, when the old Town Hall site was sold, to build a magnificent Reference Library and Art Gallery on the Piccadilly site. Then Mr. Beecham promised Manchester a magnificent opera house and it was thought that the Piccadilly site would be an ideal setting for it. While the various schemes were being discussed the great library was moved to some rough sheds hastily erected on a corner of the site. That was about 10 years ago and they are there yet. Snow and rain drip through the wretched roofs on to the readers, and sometimes on to the books. Every few months someone writes an angry letter to the local press about it, or it crops up in the City Council proceedings. But nothing is ever done. The site is now laid out as a garden and is not unsightly, except for the sheds. The bone of contention is the rates. The Manchester business man steadily moves farther out into the Cheshire and Derbyshire suburbs and cares less about Manchester's amenities. Rates are high on the business properties in Central Manchester. Sheds are cheap, and fine art galleries and libraries are likely to be dear. As long as the sheds are kept up the rates can be kept down.

CHINESE OPIUM DENS.

Nine Chinese were arrested in Manchester last week for running opium dens at four addresses in the city, and for being in unlawful possession of quantities of opium and opium pipe heads. All the premises were Chinese laundries. A 19-year old English girl suffering from St. Vitus dance and in a state of nervous exhaustion was found at one address. The ringleader, Jou Sing, was sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine of £100, and was recommended for deportation. His compatriots, some of whom had wives living in China, were sentenced to periods of imprisonment of from three to six months and, with three exceptions, to deportation also.

THE LIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

What Wembley Might Show Us: A Liking for Truth

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Mar. 6.

We are all of us trying to make Wembley really bright and attractive so the newspapers are full of well meant and kindly suggestions. Personally I think there ought to be a section for "things we seldom see." Thereby we should be able to study at close quarters crowds of things which we almost fear do not exist at all. Among these we should of course assign a place of honour to the truthful House Agent. He is the sort of man who would issue a little adlet of his stock as follows:—

Most undesirable residence. Twenty minutes fast walk from the nearest railway station. Infrequent trains to the City. No bathroom. Bad drainage. Very noisy neighbourhood. Chemical factory near by. Dry rot in the timbers. Excessive rent.

There you have the sort of man we should all like to see. People would go miles to look upon his manly features. As also upon the Too Veracious Landlady;

Non-select boarding house. Should be avoided by everyone. Bad food and very little of it. No hot water. Terms immoderate and dozens of extras.

In addition there ought be the Noble Strainer after Accuracy who would guarantee to any prospective boarder:

That she had not come down in the world

That her husband was not dead but had deserted her owing to her vile cooking.

That she was not homely and did not intend to do the lodger's darning and mending.

That her daughter was not training for the stage, but worked in a fried fish shop round the corner.

This sort of thing appeals to us all and it is quite capable of beneficial extension. For instance there would be the Theatrical Impresario who assures us that he possesses the

Rottenest show on earth. Never produced in London. No one in it can act for toffee. Only stars those seen by the artistes when falling about after leaving the pubs at closing time. Cheapest of cheap outfits.

There ought to be room too for the politician who would tell us candidly of his ambitions;

Keen politician because it pays. £400 a year with potential directorships. Complete ignorance of current problems but boosting myself because ready to pay my own expenses and meet the agent's salary. Nothing better to do and quite useless in father's business.

And do not leave out the Lady Who Devotes Herself to Public Work. She has virtues all her own;

Nobody wants to marry me. Don't like cats or dogs. Can't play out of door sports. Not musical or anything else. Lover of the limelight. Hence take up public life to be useful to my fellow women and myself.

Also the Candid Doctor—we can't leave him out;

Ready to diagnose anything without any real examination. Forgotten all learned in the schools. Never kept myself up to date. Expert at guesswork and at jollying patients. Only make up one sort of prescription but colour it variously. Warranted to overcharge.

From all this you will gather that like Mr. Pumblechook—was it not?—we have a very great liking for Ter ew th when we find it unsullied and pure from the Well. We never though do find it, and hence maybe at Wembley—if they made it worth the while of the potential exhibits—they could strike a really novel note. Of course there are several quite extinct types which could be reproduced with the aid of the experts at Madame Tussaud's—the Good Old British Workman and the Parson who is a Whole Hogger on the Thirty Nine Articles, the Faithful and Permanent Domestic Servant, the Wearer of Piccadilly Weepers, the Four-wheeler Cabman and the Gaiety Johnny of the Seventies, the Whig Politician and the Du-Maurian Bohemian. In fact if they extended this list a little they might have a Chamber of Horrors "all their own." They might even try a Male and Female Section—including in the latter the Damsel who Left the Cinema when it was announced that the film then about to be shown was "not for young girls," the Maiden who did not at 18 Know all there was to Know and the Mother's Darling as well as the entire crowd of the Jane Austen Type.

In short, if we are to have a really British Exhibition, let us not overlook what is truly British. Thereof I have given some indications in case they may be overlooked. I know that the overseas dependencies are doing their best to make everything bright and cheerful, but there are signs of deadly competition. It will not though be malevolent. All we want in the kindness of our hearts is to make visitors feel no side of our many-hued national temperament has been overlooked.

"LENIN" STAMPS

Interest of Bolshevik Issues

A set of four "Lenin Mourning Stamps" has been issued by the Russian Government. They bear the portrait of Lenin, surrounded by an inner frame of black and an outer border of Communist red, and will be in compulsory use for some time. The portrait, in its silhouette effect of black and white, is a remarkably good one.

After the revolution, payment of postage was abolished in Russia, but the disorganisation consequent on this change was so widespread that free postage was dropped after a not very extended trial. Then appeared some curious stamps symbolic of art, labour, Socialism slaying the Capitalist dragon, and similar devices, the nominal values of the stamps being in ever-increasing figures, up to 100,000 roubles. Then there was a sudden drop when "1922 roubles" were induced, each worth 10,000 of the old roubles.

In 1923 small stamps bearing fearsome portraits of "Red" workers and soldiers were introduced, which are not the best possible advertisement of the charms of Soviet rule. These, with Tsarist stamps overprinted with Bolshevik devices, served during 1923, when they were replaced by similar stamps with values expressed in gold kopecks.

Dealing in Russian postage stamps is a monopoly of a special department of the Soviet Government, which markets them in aid of various Famine and Child Welfare funds, purctuating the ordinary issues of Russia by special "charity" sets, sold at high prices, and bearing such inscriptions as "Philately Helps the Children." Famine stamps from several districts bear witness to the internal condition of Russia during the last two or three years.

AN OLD "SWEAT"

Sailed in the Birkenhead

At his home in Battersea, aged 91, recently died Bandmaster John Gready. He joined the Second Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, now known as the Queen's Royal Regiment, at Athlone, his birthplace, in 1847, when he was 14. First a drummer, he became a bandsman, but was a combatant in the Kaffir War of 1851 and the China War of 1861. He afterwards served for 12 years in India, becoming bandmaster of his regiment. His service extended over 50 years—32 years in the Regular Army and 18 years with the Volunteers. When he went to the Cape he sailed in the ill-fated Birkenhead on her second and last voyage. A man of fine figure, he was active to the last, walking four or five miles a day. Colonel J. Mackenzie Rogan, late of the Coldstream Guards, who was one of Gready's oldest friends, says:—

In the Army he was recognized by his colleagues as one of the noblest men who ever left Knoller Hall. It was he, with others, in the sixties and seventies who put an end to the foreign element in British Army music. In those days two-thirds of the bandmasters in the Army were Germans and it was men like bandmaster Gready who had all the spade work to do.

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OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

The Prince of Scotland and Wales: A New Bore for Scottish Controversialists: Mr. Ramsay MacDonald Welcomed Back into the Fold

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Feb. 27.

"The Prince of Scotland" is one of the titles to which the heir to the throne has a right, though we never hear him called by it. In a lecture in University College, London, at which, be it noted, Her Majesty the Queen was present, the lecturer, Dr. Walter Seton, referred to this fact, and said that "it would cause an outburst of loyal enthusiasm in Scotland if, on the occasion of the forthcoming visit of His Royal Highness to Scotland, Scots were permitted to drink the health of the lad who was born to be King by his title Prince of Scotland and Wales, for which the precedent of centuries could be claimed." The suggestion, as might be expected, has at once aroused a heated controversy. We Scots are built that way; we are incapable of approaching any matter affecting our country with quiet reasonableness. Dr. Seton's position is that while the title "Prince of Scotland" is not the oldest title held by the Prince of Wales among his Scottish titles; the oldest title is Earl of Carrick, 1444, and next after that probably the Dukedom of Rothesay, created in 1398; still the Scotland as soon as his royal father became King on May 6, 1910, but he was not created Prince of Wales until June 23, 1910. But in another way, while His Royal Highness became Prince of Wales by special creation he became Prince of Scotland by right of birth as soon of his Royal father became King. The objectors say that there is nothing to hinder anybody in Scotland from toasting the Prince as Prince of Scotland, but they never do it. Why? When the title was in use there was a King of Scotland known to all the world by that title. That his heir should be called Prince of Scotland was then natural and incapable of originating any misconceptions. But if to-day, when there is no King of Scotland known commonly to the world by that title, the use of the title Prince of Scotland would inevitably give rise to the idea that the ancient kingdom was a Principality. Especially would this be the result if we were to accept Dr. Seton's suggestion and drink toasts to "the Prince of Scotland and Wales." The mongrel title would instantly "even us" with Wales. It will be seen, therefore, that we Scots have fine material for "a bonnie fecht" such as our hearts love, and we owe a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Seton for starting it.

THE PREMIER AND GOLF.

The reason why Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has looked somewhat jaded lately is the lack of exercise, particularly at golf. This is his favourite recreation although he does not claim to be by any means an expert player. It is curious yet typical of the Briton how soon he forgets past political differences. Some golf clubs closed their courses to Mr. MacDonald as the result of his attitude during the war, notably one at Lossiemouth, his birthplace, but since his accession to power he has been invited by several which previously rejected him to become their president. I am told that he retains no ill-feeling towards anyone in consequence of their effective dislike of his views. It is quite probable that one famous club north of the Tweed which has invited him to become its president will find the invitation acceptable to the Prime Minister.

BOUND FOR CHINA.

J. M. Graham has played his last match for Heriot's, on the Rugby field, will shortly proceed to London, and later go out to China. Although not a scrummager of the heartiest type, Graham was one of the most valuable side in the Goldenacre team. As a rover he had few superiors, and his tackling was of that kind which an opponent does not greatly relish.

Of late weeks the docker has been in the limelight in the area of industrial politics. He is a type apart, for though his labour may fall into the casual category—as it generally does—it is by no means unskilled work. It is not any man, though physically fit, who could step into his shoes without feeling the pinch of them. It is team work, and team work keeps a man up to the scratch. He must work in time with machinery, as a recruit marches to the tick of the metronome. His business also is with the assentials of life; he carries the food of a people on his shoulders. And, like all men who deal with the essentials of life, he and his work are governed by the non-human forces of nature.

In the ports of the Firth of Forth this is essentially so, and there his labour is casual. For the chief trade is with the Baltic ports and with the ports of the White Sea—ports which, during certain months of the year are ice-bound. A man who takes up the calling of a docker is assumed to be equal to tackling a burden of anything from 2 to 5 cwt. This, at least, is what may be required of the average grain worker. It sounds a tall order, but it is not a matter of direct bulk. The experienced docker is the man who has cultivated the knack of handling. The best docker in the world is said to be the Chinese, and that the European has little chance of competing with him in the matter of dexterity and swiftness. Modern science has lightened the task of the docker. The newest cargo boats are equipped with double derricks, and the escalator has been brought into play in stacking. Still, for all these improvements, it is no uncommon thing to see men at Leith Docks, stripped of coat and waistcoat, sweating on the coldest day in winter.

Sometimes, in order to earn more—overtime is paid at the rate of time and a half—the men will work night and day, off-loading fruit, cement, or coal, at night under the glare of powerful arc lamps. Unloading cement and coal is thirsty work and sobriety cannot be reckoned among the chief virtues of the docker. Most of them in the end, fall victims to varicose veins, and few of them can persist in their calling after the age of fifty. As a body, they are stated to work well and to grumble little.

THE LATE SIR WM. WALLACE.

A tablet is to be placed in Westminster Hall in memory of Sir William Wallace and to mark the place of his trial there. Mr. John Robertson, M.P., one of the Scottish Socialist Whips, who has always taken a deep interest in all the historical associations of Westminster, has urged successive Ministers who have presided over the Office of Works to place in the hall some record of the trial of the Scottish patriot and at last he has persuaded his Socialist colleague, Mr. Jowett, to agree to his request. In his letter to Mr. Robertson notifying his consent, Mr. Jowett says:—"We know from contemporary documents that Wallace was tried in Westminster Hall on August 23, 1305, on a scaffold at the south end of the hall, and that a laurel crown was set on his head in reference to the alleged prophecy that he would be crowned in that hall. Doubtless the actual site was in front of the 'King's Bench marble seat which stood against the south wall of the hall." The tablet is to be placed on the floor of the hall at, or near, the actual site where the scaffold stood for the purpose of the trial.

UNIVERSITY GOLF MATCHES.

The Scottish Universities Golfing Society have assumed an active rôle under the energetic secretaryship of Mr. G. C. Manford. It is a body of whom comparatively little is heard considering how representative it is, standing on this side of the Border for all that the more widely known Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society does on the other side. The visit of the latter society to East Lothian a year ago made a very interesting curtain-raiser to the golfing season, and whether or not a return visit is contemplated we are at any rate to have a visit from the present students of the two great English Universities following on their annual encounter at Hoylake in the end of March. They are to play teams representing the present students of the Scottish Universities and also the Universities Golfing Society. These encounters will find the Scottish players somewhat out of practice, while the visitors will come with all the advantage of constant week-end matches continued right through the winter and culminating in the Hoylake meeting. But the Universities Society at any rate should be able to put up a fight if it is represented at anything like its full playing strength.

HANSARD AND DOAIC.

When the Clydeside M.P.'s arrived in the House of Commons, there was a disturbing rumour that all the English reporters in the Press Gallery would lose their jobs because only Scotsmen could understand the Clydeside dialect. One is inclined to think that something akin to this has really happened, for in the Hansard report of the debate on unemployment tht other night Mr. Kirkwood is officially reported to have interrupted Dr. Macnamara by saying "Yes, of course, we ken ye," and then to have interjected a little later on in the same speech. "Do ye no' mind that you were in office yourself?" Earlier in the proceedings something the Scots Minister of Health did is baldly reported as "Mr. Wheatley indicated assent." Whether he nodded or said something in broad Gaelic that no one understood is not stated. Perhaps he said "Och aye."

ENGLAND OR BRITAIN.

A discussion is taking place in the press on Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's quotations, and Sir D. M. Stevenson recalls that in his Rectorial Address to the Glasgow University students on "Patriotism," he quoted the lines from "Richard II."—

"This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle. This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."

Someone in the gallery shouted out "Britain!" Fixing him with his eyeglass, Mr. Chamberlain said: "Had I been Shakespeare I would have said 'Britain,' but he said 'England.'"

SWEATING FOR IT.

Some of the new Socialist Under-Secretaries are almost overcome by the size of their salaries. One whom I met the other day was frank in his observations on the subject. His salary of some £1,200 a year struck him as being "a lot of money." After a moment he added—"But I've got to work d—d hard for it."

TINKLE OF THE COPPERS.

The broadcasting of the North U.F. Church service at Aberdeen on Sunday evening has provoked some of the usual caustic comments at the expense of the Granite City folks. One Sassenach commentator, who heard the service "as far away as London is," says what tickled him most was the tinkle of the coppers when the collection was being taken. He declares that he did not hear the reverberation of a single threepenny bit.

A NEW GOLFING STORY.

A good golfing story and, I think, a new one comes from Aberdeen. Mr. A Clark, the first captain and treasurer of the Northern Golf Club, has been recalling some picturesque incidents in the early days of that now flourishing association. Most of the members were working men, and before the eight hour day came into force they used to play their rounds in the evenings—often well into the night. On one occasion darkness set in before the game was finished, and one of the members was sent ahead to shout the direction of the greens. Out of the blackness in front came a voice—"Do ye see the mune?" "Aye," was the reply. "Weel," said the guide, "that's the direction, but nae sae far!"

BELGIAN BOY'S ADVENTURE

A Jim Hawkins of the Battle Zone

The news published recently in Brussels of the arrest in Berlin of a young Belgian, Otto Stéphane, for attempting to rob some of the British Reparation experts, has led to the identification of this boy as one who has had a most remarkable career.

Young Stéphane was a Boy Scout, 14 years of age, when war broke out, and instead of falling in with the stream of refugees, he stayed with the Belgian troops. Venturing out alone one day he came across two Germans in a coppice, and, finding they were in no fighting mood, he escorted them to a Belgian outpost and the men were made prisoners. Stephane afterwards enlisted as a volunteer, and was allowed to go to the front at his request. He was twice wounded.

In this way his name became famous in France, and at the end of hostilities, which he survived without further injury, Gaby Deslys, the famous actress, became "War godmother" to him. At her house in Paris many parties were arranged in his honour. Then he disappeared from Paris and was not heard of again until he received an appointment as secretary to General Wrangel in Russia. After the debacle Stéphane turned up in Constantinople, and was arrested and released.

Later he turned up in the Rhineland, and as the result of some less creditable adventures he was arrested, and a charge was preferred against him of attempting to obtain property belonging to King Albert by giving a false name and carrying false identification papers. For this he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The police state that Stéphane speaks English, German, Russian and Turkish with marked fluency, and they are baffled over his amazing propensity for adventure.—Central News.

BOY MUSICIAN WONDER

"Lohengrin" on Piano and Organ at Six

In the middle of his music lesson at school a six-year-old Clapham boy, George Malcolm, will often stop and say: "I have some lovely sounds in my head, may I play them to you?

He has only been learning music for two terms, and the head music mistress at the Notre Dame School, Clapham, declares that she has never known a child like him. "He is a genius," she told the "Daily News." "I am teaching him the piano and the violin, and he can already play Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Heller. He has taught himself the organ.

"We discovered his talent quite accidentally. The teacher who plays for the children's drill was away ill, and the drillmistress asked, in fun, if any of the little ones could play it. He volunteered, and played the music perfectly from ear without knowing a note of music. The teacher was so astonished that she called me to hear him play.

"I have never known him to play a discord, and in chapel he often sings an alto of his own to the melodies."

Malcolm has, his teacher declared, already composed a dozen pieces, although he does not yet know how to write it down. "He gives his compositions names of his own," added the teacher. "One he composed at breakfast at home. He calls it 'A Spanish Dance in A minor,' another he calls 'The Blue River.'

Malcolm's parents, his teacher and the organ music as difficult as the Bridal March from 'Lohengrin.' He learns without the slightest difficulty."

Malcolm's parent, his teacher added, are not musicians, and cannot explain his remarkable talent. He is a perfectly normal, lively boy in all other respects, and bright and intelligent at his lessons.

MR. SNOWDEN'S LUCK

Prospective Surplus of Some £30,000,000 Due to Unionist Government Economy

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Mar. 6.

Mr. Snowden, the Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, may have a surplus of about £30,000,000.

The savings on the Civil Service and Revenue Departments as compared with the present financial year show a sum of £37,000,000. The Army Estimates show a reduction of seven millions and the Navy Estimates of about three millions. The Air Force is to cost roughly two millions more; and, if it be assumed that the Consolidated Fund Services will run to about the same figure, the sum which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to find for 1924-5 will be, in round numbers, something over £783,000, made up as follows:—

Army	£45,000,000
Navy	55,000,000
Air	14,000,000
Civil Service	289,000,000
Consolidated Fund	380,000,000
	£783,000,000

This, of course, is a rough estimate, which takes no account of odd thousands. The expenditure calculated for in the Budget of 1923-4 was, again in round figures, £816,000,000. It included £25,000,000 for supplementary estimates which might become necessary during the year. If similar provision is made in the forthcoming budget, then the total above given would be increased by that amount.

The Department exhibiting the largest saving is the Ministry of Pensions, which is £6,707,400 down at £66,947,800; and decreases as big relatively can be put to the credit of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Labour, which require £2,704,400 and £2,126,700 less respectively, at £2,018,100 and £14,060,300. As much as £10,642,400 is retrieved under the Diplomatic and Consular Vote in regard to Colonial and Middle-Eastern services, no doubt because the current period had to bear the cost of the Imperial Conference.

The sum needed for the Board of Trade comes down from £1,032,500 to £538,300. The Board of Education Vote at £41,900,000 is within £34,000 of the present year's figure, as it certainly should be. It is a good sign, too, that the inadequate sum of £466,100 formerly assigned to scientific investigation and scientific and industrial research has been advanced to £529,700. Old Age Pensions go up from £23,300,000 to £24,201,000, the increase being partly due to the promised abolition of the thrift penalization provision. The Revenue Departments exhibit little change on balance.

How will Mr. Snowden spend his surplus? It is thought that he will take a good deal off the food taxes and somthing off the entertainment tax. He may also increase the taxation on the rich, especially in the direction of the super tax and, possibly, also the death duties. It might be added that, of course, credit for this flourishing state of national finance is due to the old Unionist Government.

AN AWKWARD SITUATION

Try as I would I could not rid myself of the Bore.
He was not to be dismissed by anything I did.
"I must go uptown," I said; but he merely replied,
"Very well. I'll go with you."
I invented several chores but he stuck like a leech.
Finally I hesitated in front of a private dwelling
I had never seen before and said to the Bore,
"I must stop here to see an old friend. Good-by."
I ran up the steps and rang the bell.
The door was opened by a servant.
"Is Mrs. Robinson in?" I inquired.
"Certainly, sir," he replied. "Step this way."

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OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

Travelling Ministers and Do They Earn Their Pay? Parliament Preparing for a Wrangle: The British Naval Squadron and Romance Killed by Wireless

From Our Own Correspondent.

Melbourne, Feb. 27.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Prime Minister, is expected back in Australia within the next few days, and is being met by the acting Prime Minister, Dr. Page, and staff at Fremantle on the western coast. He travels overland by the so-called desert railway, and should reach Melbourne within 10 days. His appearance here is looked forward to with considerable interest by the ordinary onlooker, and with not a little anxiety by the politicians. Dr. Page, has signified his retirement from the temporary leadership of the Government party by a lengthy speech in which he has claimed that the administration during the recess, and Mr. Bruce's absence, has been highly successful. He takes credit in an extraordinary way for alleged reforms, which after all were carried into effect by his predecessors whom he claims to have driven from office for the public good. A section of the press is pointing this out, and for the first time there appears to be an inclination seriously to criticize the Government. Dr. Page contends that ministers have done well by seldom being in their offices but travelling through the country to see for themselves personally. When one realizes the immense spaces of Australia and the time necessarily lost in travelling he will wonder, as one newspaper suggests, whether ministers could not be dispensed with altogether.

One Minister claims that because he dismissed a number of caretakers, who were uselessly employed looking after some anchored hulks, he has saved as much as all the ministerial trips would cost in the course of one year. Assuredly a somewhat childish argument, and one which is frequently heard from the man who declines to pay fire insurance premiums. But the chief complaints heard from the press which would naturally support the Government are based upon the fact that this Government is continuing the policy of grants, bounties, and interference with trade and industry to just as great an extent as did the previous Hughes' Government. It is also borrowing, and the Commonwealth Treasurer has propounded the thesis that it should be our aim to keep the public debt at its present per capita level, namely £150. Dr. Page points out that taking the past year's increase in population this would give a loan expenditure for the current year of £20,000,000, with increase in the future as the population is augmented. Such a proposition, coming from a leader pledged to the strictest economy and the curtailment of borrowing, is creating uneasiness, which is reflected in some very strong public criticism.

PARLIAMENT'S MEETING.

It is expected that Mr. Bruce will agree to the suggestion of the cabinet that parliament should resume its sittings on March 26. This will give him a fortnight to consider the various matters to which his colleagues have pledged him during the long recess and while he has been out of the country. He is pledged to revise the tariff and to introduce measures to alter the constitution. These measures must be submitted to the people for confirmation, and their purpose is to subdivide the larger States, and to practically recast the political map of Australia. Either the tariff or the constitutional amendments are sufficient to wreck the Government, even if it can successfully withstand the attacks which are bound to be made in respect to its futile administration at home and the failure of Mr. Bruce's mission to London.

The Nationalist section of the ministerialists is by no means satisfied. Dr. Page, the Country party leader, has used the absence of Mr. Bruce as an opportunity to strengthen his own party, and preach the doctrine that the man on the land should have a separate party in order to gain his own ends. The Nationalists are noting that the Country party in the several States is quite prepared to filch seats from the Nationalists, and, if the latter object to give their second votes to Labour, I understand that this attitude of selfish isolation—of Sinn Feinism—ourselves alone—is being more and more resented, and the Prime Minister will be hard put to it to maintain peace in the ranks of his followers. Mr. Bruce's capacity for leadership will be put severely to the test, but as the ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, will be a away for the next four months he will have every opportunity to show what he can do with the material at his command.

Before his departure for America, where he will deliver a series of lectures, Mr. Hughes warned Mr. Bruce that the Liberal and Labour sections of the Nationalist party were steadily drifting apart, and no-one is better furnished with political acumen to express an opinion.

THE BRITISH SERVICE SQUADRON.

Such is the effectiveness of wireless that greetings were exchanged between the Commonwealth and the British Special Service squadron while the warships were still 3,400 miles from the Australian coast. This sort of thing goes a long way to knock all the romance out of the seafaring yarns of the past. The Watchman on the hills at the back of the Lizard waiting to catch the first glimpse of the Spanish Armada, the hasty message to Drake and his admirals, and the assurance that they had still time to finish their game of bowls, would to-day be replaced by the reports in the newspapers each day for a fortnight or more as to the moment the fleet sailed, and its daily progress. To-day the spontaneous welcome cannot happen. Wireless has killed spontaneity.

For all that the fleet which will arrive to-day will be warmly welcomed, will visit all the important ports, and not leave Australian waters before April 26. All this might seem to have no very particular significance, but it has been endowed with unexpected importance by the fact that there has been a change of Government in Britain since the squadron set out on its mission. It is asserted that the Labour Government would have, had it been able, cancelled the Empire tour of the ships, and there were even non-Labour politicians who believed that this was quite on the cards. The hoax, therefore, which was perpetrated by an Australian Labour paper was not altogether without some grounds for belief. "The Labour Call" of Melbourne printed a few copies containing a bogus telegram, which made it appear that the British Premier, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, had indicated that he hoped there would be no superfluous patriotism in the welcoming of the fleet, and that official visits would be paid to the Trades Halls, and, where Labour was not in power, to the Leaders of Labour Oppositions. It was hinted that internationalism rather than patriotism was the keynote of the Labour policy.

Ramsay MacDonald said the message was a tissue of falsehoods, but the London daily Labour paper treated it as a joke, and said that MacDonald might well have said it, but not in such blunt language. At least two Melbourne dailies were foolish enough to take the story seriously, and one went even so far as solemnly to comment on it in its leading columns. The matter might rest at that, and the paper be satisfied that it had raised a laugh, but unfortunately the paper is controlled by the Deputy-leader of the Federal Labour Opposition. It is interpreted—at least by the opponents of Labour—as an attempt on the part of the communistic element in the trades unions to throw cold water upon the visit of the fleet, and lessen the welcome the officers and men will receive. I do not think it will have that effect, but it is certain to supply ammunition to the opponents of Labour. It is rather as if a small boy had set a bent pin for his neighbour to sit down upon, and then had sat on it himself.

SHORT-LIVED BUSHRANGING.

It transpires that the man who did the shooting at a picnic party in New South Wales had never heard of the somewhat similar crime in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. He was a man with a grievance. He had invented something which had been stolen from him. Most inventors are like that. He had discovered, so he said, a way to poison rabbits, and he carried about a tin of cyanide of postassium which he was not game, at the last moment, to use upon himself. Of the three people he shot one is dead, but the others are likely to survive. After shooting at some police who were pursuing him he crept down to the river Murray, and swam across to the Victorian side. He discarded rifle, ammunition and much of his clothing, and the countryside being aroused he was soon described against the skyline climbing the mountainous country. He knew the people and most of them knew him. He had talked in days past of what he would do if he ever turned bushranger, and despite the evidence of the prison doctors it looks as if he were hardly responsible.

In the end he crawled to the milking-yard of a homestead, where two youths, whom he knew, were milking cows, and prayed for food. The youths gave him milk, and while he was drinking seized and bound him in the best movie-picture style. He had been about five days' out. Meanwhile, in the same neighbourhood—that is within 150 miles—some-one had been busy burning small houses. At last he shot at one of the people watching for him, and the hard-headed and hard-riding bushmen rode him down. He is already forgotten except by those whose property he destroyed.

It is permissible, perhaps, to add here that one of the two men who shot the bank manager at a Melbourne suburban railway station, as mentioned by me some months ago, has been condemned to death. The other man, who is quite well known to the police, has not been captured. He has either got out of the country, or is, to use the criminal phraseology, lying in smoke.

TRAWLING INDUSTRY.

Probably one of the most remarkable instances of how Governments can stand in the light of industry is shown by the failure hitherto to establish a fish trawling industry. Soon after the Commonwealth came into existence a trawler was secured and the services of Mr. H. C. Dannevig, a Norwegian fishery expert, temporarily in the employ of the New South Wales Government, obtained. As a result the areas where trawling was possible were mapped, and a whole library of information created. Yet no-one seemed particularly to mind, and Mr. Dannevig and his trawler disappeared with all hands down in the southern seas where they had been sent upon a quite unsuitable mission. The New South Wales State Government decided to start trawling, but being afflicted with Labour ideals also started State fish-shops, and lost money in very considerable quantities. Had the catches of their trawlers been made available to the regular sellers of fish the business might have succeeded. With a change of Government the fish shops have been closed and the trawlers sold. Queensland, also having a Labour Government, was determined to catch fish, and sell it to the public. It lost many thousands of pounds, reluctantly abandoned its scheme, and sold its one trawler. Possibly these efforts, or the after-results of the war, may have had their effect, but trawling is now being taken up by private enterprise, under the guidance of men experienced in the North Sea fisheries.

Four or five trawlers are now regularly supplying Sydney, and the other day a Sydney trawler came into Melbourne to initiate a similar trade here. It is early yet to be able to prophesy as to results, and much of course will depend upon the manner in which the State railways assist in getting the catches distributed inland. But what is of chief interest is the fact that Admiral Lord Jellicoe in 1919, when reporting on Australian naval defence, particularly mentioned the necessity of having mine-sweeping facilities, and declared that the cheapest and most efficient method was to create a large fish trawling industry. Whether the Commonwealth is encouraging these new ventures has not yet been disclosed, but there is always the danger that the fear of being charged with Socialism will keep it idle.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

The past year was a bad one for the cotton industry, which is chiefly located in Queensland. The drought which prevailed was considered the worst according to records for 50 years, yet 12,000,000-lb. of seed cotton valued at £275,000 was obtained. For the current year the prospects, following upon general rains, are excellent. There are estimated to be some 100,000 acres under crop, and an output of 43,000,000-lb., 86,000 bales, valued at £1,000,000 is anticipated. In addition to up to date ginning plants mills have been erected to treat the cotton seed, and get all the value possible out of bye-products. There are now some 4,000 white farmers engaged in growing the staple, and the number is being rapidly increased. Reports from England tell us that there is no hope for rapid expansion because there is no large supply of cheap, coloured labour, and Lord Leverhulme, when here the other day, was most persistent that we should bring negroes into the country and establish an industry which he assured us would be worth a sum of £300,000,000 or double the value of the American crop.

Apart from the political and social objections to having a mass of negroes in this country, all Australians who have studied the matter believe that industrially the idle, shiftless, and unimaginative coloured races are less profitable than the energetic white man, with whom initiative is a commonplace. Already there is evidence enough that the white people picking cotton pick ever so much more in a short day than the plantation negro in the United States does in a long one, and as the cotton farms are all in small areas the growers and their families can for the most part do all the necessary work. At present the growing of ratoon cotton is prohibited, but a strong agitation is afoot that this prohibition be removed. It is asserted that the ratooning of cotton is liable to harbour insect pests, but this argument should equally apply to sugar cane, which is usually ratooned twice after the plant crop has been cut.

Seeing that in two or three years the area under cotton has increased from nothing to 100,000 acres there is no reason to suppose that double or treble that amount of land will not be planted within the next two or three years. Indeed it seems likely that cotton cultivation will proceed quite as quickly with white labour as would be possible with coloured, seeing that it is necessary to open up lands, build railways, and otherwise prepare the country for settlement. One thing is certain namely that the industry is being started on sound foundations. The danger of pests is fully recognized, and the best expert advice in all departments has been hired to watch developments, check mistakes, and advise the growers.

ATHERTON TABLELANDS.

At the back of Cairns, which is now the second port in Queensland in the amount of its trade, there are wonderful tablelands, lying 2,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level, and embracing some 7,000,000 acres of deep, rich volcanic soils. For a long time past there have been many settlers on this country which lies just below the 17th parallel of south latitude, but they have not found much that they can profitably cultivate. It is too cold at night-time to grow sugar cane, and the cultivation of maize, which at one time reached one million bushels, largely failed because of the intense moisture which prevented the drying of the grain and its preservation from the attacks of weevils. Estimates of the cost of kiln-drying placed this remedy out of the question. Lately the State Government of Queensland has come to the rescue and advanced some £70,000 to the farmers, who have let contracts for the building of three silos for storage purposes. At the same time a compulsory pool has been created which will handle the maize as common property, and see that it is not rushed on to the market to be sold for next door to nothing, while later on in the year South African maize will be imported to supply the people in the South. The capacity of the three silos will be 8,000 tons, and the number of farmers affected at first only 150, but this new development will naturally lead, if successful, to many new growers taking up this industry, to more silos, and to the restoration of the old time prosperity without the market risks.

There is also talk of one of the big manufacturing firms putting up works for the manufacture of maize products on the spot. It is only fair to say that the State Labour Government is chiefly responsible for this new departure being made possible. The average Liberal Government, which worships private enterprise as a savage does his fetish, hesitates to lend money to farmers to commence a new venture, lest it be charged with conquetting with State Socialism, yet there is no question that our sugar industry, meat export works and butter factories largely owe their initiation and success not so much to private enterprise as to State determination to make them succeed, and helping them with advances at a low rate of interest, and easy terms of repayment. Labour Governments have no qualms in such matters, and on the whole though they are charged with being socialistic do a great deal of good. The Babinda sugar mill was built by the Government at a cost of half a million sterling. It is in good running order, and pays its way. The Government has now handed it over to the farmers, and it becomes their property to do with as they like, provided they continue to pay off the Government loan with interest. In addition to maize growing on the Atherton tablelands there has been considerable increase in dairying of late, and the prospects are that this fine area, well in the tropics, will soon become a hive of white men's industry.

FILMING EVEREST

Colour-pictures and Tibetan Music

The "Times" publishes from its film correspondent the following account of the arrangements that have been made to take pictures of the Everest Expedition:—

Elaborate preparations have been made to take cinematograph pictures of the third expedition to climb Mount Everest, which is soon leaving this country, Captain J. B. L. Noel, F.R.G.S., who was responsible for the film of the second expedition shown last year, is again in charge. A number of pictures are to be taken by the new process of colour cinematography invented by Mr. Friese Green. Certain portions of the films are to be sent to this country as they are taken by arrangement with Messrs. Pathé Frères, and it is anticipated that it will be possible to show them in London a month after they have been taken. The complete film, however, will probably not appear till next October.

The films will not be developed during the journey as they were last time (sometimes with rather disastrous results), but as they are taken they will be sent back first by foot, then by mule transport, and then by Indian past to Darjeeling, where they will be developed at a specially constructed laboratory. When the complete film is shown it will be accompanied by Tibetan music recorded during the journey by Mr. T. H. Somervell (who did similar work last time), and orchestrated and fitted to its new environment by Mr. Eugene Goossens.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

OUR FACULTIES AND THE FACT OF RELIGION

III—Our Inheritance and our Temptation: A Sermon Preached by the Rev. A. N. Rowland on April 6, 1924, in Union Church, Shanghai

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape." I Cor. x: 13.

Last Sunday we thought of Revelation—those truths that present themselves through the medium of Nature and Scripture for our attention, acceptance and advantage. But we are all aware of another kind of influence that tends to sweep us out of their reach, to sap our moral security and to destroy our peace. We call it temptation.

Now it is important we should take the measure of hostility so that we may face it without fear. Everybody knows the difference it makes in games to have confidence, whether it be billiards, golf or what not. Be sure you can tackle that "pot" or that "putt" and you will, but fear is fatal to success. I have just been reading in a handbook on medicine that when illness is around it is a great handicap to get frightened. It disables resistance, as Kinglake testified long ago from his experience of the plague in Cairo.

So in moral questions. There can be no victory for the man who already counts himself a victim. He magnifies the power of evil beyond reason and surrenders at the first summons. The Apostle Peter had experience of this in the courtyard of the high priest when temptation searched his soul. It was fear that hurried him into disowning his master and disgracing himself. Perhaps it was for this reason that twice in his short epistle he begs his fellow Christians to *keep cool* (as Moffat translates the phrase "be sober"). It is the first item in confidence. It is the means of taking the measure of your enemy.

THE HALL-MARK OF HUMANITY.

This chapter of Corinthians is a great contribution to the subject. First the apostle turns to the over-confident and says "Remember that your fathers lost what they set out for by yielding to temptations. Take warning from their downfall." Then he turns the truth over for the benefit of the under-confident—those who magnified the danger of temptation and took for granted they would fail. "Remember two things," says the Apostle. (1) "That your case is not peculiar, you are sharing the common experience. It is the hall-mark of humanity to be tempted. No temptation hath taken you but such as is common to men." It is involved in the development of human character.

That is the first ground of encouragement for the tempted, (and you have only to read the diaries of the best men to know how true it is). And this is the second reason for confidence, that there is a way out—a "way of escape." It is not with us as with the entombed miners in the Redding pit near Falkirk, whose chance of escape was blocked by the enormous rush of water in the workings.

REPRESSED TENDENCIES.

Think of these two parts in turn (1) that we are in for temptation but (2) that we need not be *under* it. First, temptation is wrapped up in human nature: it is part of our inheritance for a "man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed." It is remarkable how in this matter Science has come over to the side of the Bible. The School of thought that is now dominant in psychology pictures life as a keen struggle between two kinds of powers—those we want to express and those we want to repress. "What we would do" and "the law that is in our members." Freud and his school declare that the mischief of life, working in subterranean ways, is due to the repressed tendencies that disguise themselves. They crouch at the door of our conscious life ready to break out in folly, lunacy, crime or disease. Thus we inherit much that we have to keep in its place, and that place as Browning says, is under-foot. This is the temptation common to man of which the Apostle speaks in this chapter.

THE MORAL STRUGGLE.

We know now that temptation has come from a far-away past and has gathered momentum from a prehuman ancestry. Therefore it comes into conflict with the manhood we are trying to form in the light of the best that we know, in the fellowship of the best that we love. Life is a moral struggle between what we allow and what we disapprove. No man wants to be caught in the drift of the dead past. He is ashamed to be dictated to by his brute ancestry. He desires to bring life up to the level of conscience. He wants to be himself.

"For life is not as idle ore,
But iron dug from central gloom,
And heated hot with burning fears,
And dipt in baths of hissing tears,
And battered with the shocks of doom
To shape and use. Arise and fly
The reeling Faun, the sensual feast:
Move upward, working out the beast,
And let the ape and tiger die."

Temptation is our testing from God. He has ordained the law of climbing for His children—the law that we should "rise on stepping-stones of our dead selves to higher things." So we can take confidence from the Apostle's words "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man."

PRISON AND PALACE.

(2) But besides this the Creator has ordained the means of escape. We have no right or reason to to temptation, a golden side to it. Take illustrations from the Bible. Here were two men put to the test at opposite ends of the social scale. Joseph's temptation came to him in the prison, Daniel's in the palace. In the case of both of them it rose to its greatest heights because the circumstances of the moment seemed to make loyalty to God absurd. But though they could not perceive a way of escape God provided it. They had the supreme satisfaction of victory, winning immeasurable dignity for themselves and bringing the highest glory to God that it is in the power of His creatures to bring. And there is a way out of *our* temptations too, in whatever way they come. How we are conscious of those voices that threaten the poise of our character and the peace of our heart—that bid us pursue the best things for ourselves and to secure them at any cost; to indulge self, to aggrandize or revenge oneself; to best a neighbour, to down an enemy; to show scorn to an inferior, servility to the man in office; to wait for the wind to blow, to flinch from rowing against the tide; to stop short when praises cease and turn sour when circumstances are unkind. These are the promptings of our common nature.

OUR TRIAL NOT OUR FATE.

But because we are sons of God, brothers of Joseph and Daniel and of the perfect conqueror of temptation we can emerge from the ordeal with honour. "What we inherit," said Dr. Dale, "may be said to fix our trial, but never our fate." Once we confront it as temptation we can conquer it. It is just here that we get special light from the latest mental science. It is explained by the most modern teachers and healers that what we need is first to recognize the evil for what it is. That has proved to be the cure for thousands who were under some physical, mental or moral burden, such as the late war occasioned. By the use of hypnotism the new kind of physician has performed miracles on disabled men. He has just located the mischief, then made the patient identify it. That done it is easily vanquished.

The same principle holds good in the realm of moral weakness and disease. Never was the case for confession and repentance put more clearly. The school of complexes virtually endorses what the Bible says, "Don't leave yourself to the mercy of moods and tendencies that cannot give a straight account of themselves. Call your trouble sin and confess it, call it temptation and vanquish it."

THE CASE FOR CONFESSION.

The method of modern science is anticipated in Psalm 32. "When I kept silence my bones waxed old with my groaning. For day and night Thy hand was heavy on me: my moisture was turned into the drought of summer. But when I acknowledged my sin unto Thee and hid my iniquity no longer. when I confessed my transgression unto the Lord, Thou didst cover my sin and I had the happiness of the forgiven.

In the pathology of the human soul it is an unwise counsellor who says "Try to forget, occupy yourself with externals, let yourself go in excitement." Science and Religion are colleagues in the art of healing, and according to their united witness it is wise to identify your moral ailment in such a way that you can line up against it all the forces you possess and all that are within reach.

SYNTHETIC ENERGY.

And that leads me to speak in conclusion of the second way of escape suggested by modern psychology and already laid down in ancient scripture. If it is true that your wandering and disguised tendencies to evil must be overcome by the nobler elements within you it is essential that you should be reinforced by what Science calls a supernormal process. what *we* call a spiritual alliance. Prof. Janet has said that what is wanted for life to be normal is a "synthetic power or energy which can grasp or uplift our other powers." We want no better definition of faith, and we take not of the fact that Science distinctly leaves room for, and almost expects, a spiritual contact and communion which are the very theme of the Bible. It becomes plain that the best defence against those temptations that are inherent in human life is to negotiate with the Father of our spirits by the way He has Himself laid down, and to use with confidence the access that He has provided. Unless faith is constantly being fed by the highest fellowship it is at the mercy of our earthward tendencies. Faith is the process by which alone our troubled natures can be righted and at rest. Why not believe? Why not take these words of St. Augustine into the presence of the Most High, "Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

THE SHY VITAMINE

It is a shock to me to hear
That nobody has ever seen
The thing that science holds so dear
And calls a vitamine.

Strange that each weird and curious pet
That science nurses in her arms,
However curious we may get,
Will not display its charms.

Themselves unto themselves they keep,
These darlings of the learned mind;
Even a weasel wrapt in sleep
Is not a rarer find.

The atom is extremely shy,
The giddy young electron, too,
Although we know the how and why
Of everything they do.

And though when vitamines we eat
We know they buck us up no end,
Alas! we never chance to meet
Each coy, retiring friend.

Despite materialistic bands
Which hold some savant minds in thrall,
Science, it seems to me, demands
The greatest faith of all,

—C. E. B.,
in "London Evening News."

PEKING IMPRESSIONS: CHANGE AND DECAY IN ALL AROUND

By George E. Sokolsky.

In spite of all that is said and written about corruption in China, one finds in Peking in almost every ministry young men who are working away at their jobs as though they were paid, as though it were still honourable to be employed by the government of the Republic of China. Some of these young men have not been paid for a year or more. Others are financing their jobs out of their earnings at more lucrative though less important tasks. One man I know is in debt attempting to finance his job. Some of the professors of the universities support themselves almost entirely by writing for newspapers and magazines. These young optimists feel that they are the remnants of the faithful, that they keep the Government together, that without them it would fall apart, even as the temples of Peking are falling apart. They are of a class with the Commissioner of Forestry in Tsingtao, of whom it has been said that he is an honest man.

TWO MEN AND A DIPLOMAT.

Dr. C. T. Wang is sometimes gruff; he sometimes talks out of turn and is generally a good-fellow, a Mason, a Rotarian, a man among men. Foreigners who know him personally but not politically almost always like him. Foreigners who know him only politically sometimes like him, sometimes dislike him but always believe him. He has played the game, has made mistakes, has paid his debts and has never done anything to harm his country at a time when men's deeds are measured not by the good they do but by the amount of harm they fail to do. He almost got for China the best treaty that China can ever hope to extract from Russia. He is the most influential among the younger leaders in Peking because everyone believes that he is straight. And not to be placed in the category of the crooked in Peking, is to have an order of merit of the greatest degree.

Dr. W. W. Yen is quite different from C. T. He is urbane, polite, socially perfect. The cut of his clothes tells the story. Intellectually, he is perhaps superior to Dr. Wang. But he lacks a positiveness which is most necessary at this time. Were he and Dr. Wang to work together they would form a wonderfully effective combination, for Dr. Yen would restrain Dr. Wang's impetuosity, while Dr. Wang would pull Dr. Yen away from the middle-of-the-course road, which no longer serves. Dr. Yen has a splendid position among the older Chinese in Peking, who feel that he is a younger man they can work with. He has a following among many younger men who like his method of working and his accentuation on the essential.

Tact is the virtue of the diplomat and the shop-keeper. A shopkeeper tactfully substitutes one thing for another; the diplomat substitutes a phrase for the truth. Perhaps that is why in the older countries neither the merchant nor the diplomat was altogether acceptable among the sterner soldiers of fortune. Dr. Koo is a diplomat. Most Chinese regard him as a foreign diplomat among Chinese. Some foreigners still regard him as a Chinese, although why they should is difficult to determine. He has a keener mind than either Dr. Wang or Dr. Yen, but it is the keenness of a Shanghai compradore rather than of a scholar.—He would go to "Ningpo-more-far" if the occasion arose and that is why the incumbent in London is still Chargé d'Affaires, instead of being made a Minister. He bungled the Russian business in the most masterly manner, not even having a chance to save his face, a chance given even to ricsha coolies in this gracious country. Rodney Gilbert called for flowers the other day; but Rodney is somewhat late. The flowers were really due the day he remained Minister of Foreign Affairs, after Tsao Kun had slapped his face in the Lincheng business.

MORAL DEGENERATION.

The moral tone of Peking does not bear description. Opium is smoked by fiery Parliamentarians as well as by lethargic officials. Practices which one had heard about and never believed have been revived and are openly discussed. This is perhaps the end of the cycle, the stepping down into decay and oblivion of that older officialdom which has done the country no good since the revolution. The strength of both the officialdom and the military in China is in the provinces. In Peking, everything, even men, are crumbling. The screeching ladies outside Chien-mên and many who do not screech and who do not live outside the Chien-mên are profiteering in these days of poverty.

LEGATION QUARTER.

The Legation Quarter is still an over-worked part of the world. Some members overwork socially. Others have to care for thousands of things which keep a diplomat busy. At this time, when the relations between Chinese and foreigners are not so delectable, the Legations cannot devote themselves to solving broad, general questions but have to look after little protests, from an extra tax on eggs to the breaking of all the treaties, from collecting, a dishonest bill to a complete defaulting on all debts by the Chinese government. Then they are told by their own nationals in China that they are too slow, by the Chinese that they are too furious and by their home countries that they must synchronize their activities with the general condition of mankind. The diplomat is no longer an expert in international law; he is a master shroff and a pathologist.

THE BEAR AND THE LAMB.

The National University is the conserver of Chinese culture, the intellectual saviour of Peking. It also gets itself occasionally involved in politics because of its sense of righteousness. Russia has understood how to take advantage of the general good-will of the professors, who deal with political problems on a purely intellectual basis. The students of Peking have supported Russia. The students have supported Dr. C. T. Wang. They have opposed every crooked proposition in Peking. Perhaps that is why the professors are so tardily paid and the university lacks funds and resources.

WALLA WALLA.

Parliament continues although there is no longer either a legal or a utilitarian basis for its existence. To the Chinese, the only excuse for the continuance of parliament is that it gives the opposition an opportunity to ask embarrassing questions. To the foreigner, the only excuse for its existence is that whenever the Chinese government wants to break a treaty it might be done by act of parliament which no cabinet officer can gainsay. To Mr. Koo it has its uses, since he can always explain away his saying one thing and meaning another.

SAD AND LONELY.

The foreigner sits in the lobby of the hotel or at the bridge table in the club. He is waiting for the Chinese government to pay his bills. The government admits the debt but claims poverty. As long as the debt is not repudiated, what can one do?

AFTER THE STORM.

There had been two or three lots of tourists, mostly peasants from the steppes of various Anglo-Saxon countries, makers of fortunes during the war days by holding on to wheat and potatoes. Everything in Peking that is valueless has gone. Mandarin coats worn by Emperors, glass beads worn by mandarins, alabaster jars which held snuff and porcelain dishes from which the Dowager Empress drank ginseng. The curio shops are cleaned out. Nothing is left to send back to the folks at home as a souvenir, except perhaps a Buddhist painting, valued at $5,000 which the tourists thought rubbish and with the art-lover is too poor to buy.

THE BLUE EXPRESS.

Everybody asks the "boys" where is Lincheng. They all want

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to see where it happened. They all wonder whether it is quite safe to travel on the Blue Express. They talk it over and joke. A rich Chinese, a banker, rides second class. He says the first class is too far beyond the ordinary standard of living of an honest man in China. Lincheng is passed. We have our dinner. The train moves quickly. The tall protectors of the road look ferocious and efficient. The searchlight is turned on. Nothing on either sides but the bare country of the Yellow River Valley.

CLASS PREJUDICES.

Chinese and foreigners alike in Peking wonder at the millionaires from Shanghai, who inhabit the hotels and whose wives buy furs. These people might know how to make money, but they can't possibly know anything else. It is this prejudice in Peking against the mentality of the Shanghailander which makes for much of the misunderstanding in the situation. Shanghai is supposed to be as barren as the spindle-room of a cotton mill. Yet, one can look hard in Peking and find neither Mr. Paci's concerts nor Mr. Sowerby's and Dr. Chatley's meetings. Culture usually accompanies economic independence—and there is no money in Peking.

THE HOUSE OF CHING.

There is much talk in Peking of the boy Emperor. There is much talk of his use of the telephone and the automobile, of his British tutor and his wife's missionary tutor. But there is little talk of his calling into his palace younger Chinese scholars and philosophers to instruct him in the history of this country and the present conditions of its people. The Boy Emperor is taking a keener interest in China than perhaps its president—although that is not inexplicable. For blood will out.

LESSONS IN GOLF

V.—Some Points About Putting

(By Harry Vardon—Six Times Open Champion)

Putting has given me infinitely more trouble than any other department of the game, and, for that reason, I have devoted an incalculable measure of attention to it. If the results have been variable, the experiments have been at least interesting.

After 30 years of ups and downs on the putting green, I am convinced that there are two supreme constituents of success in this small area with its crowded possibilities.

The first is to keep the head, and therefore the body, absolutely still throughout the swing, and until after the ball has been struck. Only the arms should move in the playing of the stroke.

The second is to see that the club-head is not pushed in even the slightest degree outwards—that is, away from the body—during the back swing. It should be taken back, so far as possible, in a straight line behind the ball. If, owing to the length of the putt and the consequent necessity for a comparatively long swing, the club-face must turn slightly from a right-angle setting to the direction of play, its tendency should be to travel inside an extended line of the putt behind the ball—not to go outside that line, which is a common fault.

THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER.

As a rule, the person who is putting well is observing these two principles. For the rest, it does not matter much how he is going about the business. Whether he is standing straddle-legged or with the heels close together, whether he is stooping over the ball or adopting an almost erect posture, and how he is gripping the club are matters of individual choice on which it would be absurd to lay down rules where putting is concerned.

Keeping the head still and not pushing the club out are the points to remember, and perhaps the best advice one can offer is that the player should not think too much about anything else when he is within holing distance. Putting can become like a nightmare if, when you are doing it well, you begin to analyse your methods in order to discover exactly how you are prospering so greatly.

A FAMOUS PLAYER'S GRIP.

There is a human story of a man who had failed at nothing on the greens for six or seven holes until his opponent remarked: "You are a wonderful putter. I must watch how you do it." The wonderful one, conscious of the fact that he was now being watched, began himself to wonder how he was doing it, with the result that the smooth working of the system gave way to an endeavour to demonstrate all the principles that he felt were correct. And so he missed the putts.

A great many people—including first-class players—grip the putter differently from any of the other clubs. Ever since I saw Mr. W. J. Travis, of New York, win the British amateur championship at Sandwich in 1904, I have thought that—theoretically, at any rate—his grip was the best for this department of the game.

It was the overlapping grip reversed—that is, the left hand did the overlapping. If memory serves, the forefinger and second fingers of that hand rested on the third and little fingers of the right hand.

I have tried this method and done well with it, although the ordinary overlapping grip is now too strongly ingrained in me for any other to take its place permanently, even for putting only. Still Mr. Travis's way strikes me as being sound in conception, because it helps to keep the right hand under control. And it is usually the right hand that becomes wayward, especially in the matter of pushing the putter out at the start of the back swing.

AN UNNOTICED FAULT.

This latter fault often creeps into the system without being noticed, and generally results in the club-face cutting across the ball, which is, therefore, invested with a tendency to wobble gingerly along the line and slip past the right-hand side of the tin.

I was once suffering from such a condition on the eve of an open championship. Happening to be in the professional's shop with nothing particular to do, I started to swing my putter. The boarded floor had no covering, and there were the usual thin lines where the planks joined. I chanced to start my putter back on one of these lines, and noticed that it went outside the line. That was the key to my trouble. I began at once to practise the principle of taking the club back straight along the line, and, as a result, putted so well in that championship as to win.

HEADS AND ELBOWS.

But when all is said and done, the preservation of a perfectly still head and body is the main essential in the accomplishment of a successful putt.

Obviously there is nothing wonderful in making a ball run two or three or more yards in a straight line on a green specially prepared for the purpose, and in the great majority of cases the influence which causes it to go wrong is a sway of the body, beginning at the head.

Different players have different methods for maintaining the stability of the body. Mr. Francis Ouimet, that distinguished American amateur who beat Edward Ray and me in the re-play for the United States Open Championship of 1913, and who is certainly one of the finest putters in the world, has both his elbows pointing well outwards so that his arms form a kind of triangle with the apex at his neck, and the club swinging pendulum-fashion from his hands in the middle of the base of the triangle.

It is a putting style that arrests attention, because it looks as if the club-head must move in a straight line—the line of the putt—from beginning to end, and this is an invaluable feature of the putting swing.

J. H. Taylor adopted the principle many years ago of sticking out his left elbow so that it pointed almost directly in the line of play, and it struck me that he became a more certain holer-out—if that were possible—from the moment he put this system into operation.

Some players like to pause momentarily at the end of the back swing, as if to steady themselves and take aim for the putt. Macdonald Smith, of Mexico, who finished third in last year's British Open Championship, does this in a pronounced degree, and the trait is almost as noticeable in the putting methods of James Braid. I have observed, too, that the longer he pauses at the end of his back swing, the better he putts.

We may not do well deliberately to cultivate a break of this kind, but certainly it is better than rushing the club forward.

Keep your head absolutely rigid and take the club back in a straight line behind the ball. Bring it forward smoothly and follow through. Those seem to be the essentials of effective putting.

VI.—Long Shots Up to Hole

It happens very often that we want to play a long and well-controlled shot up to the hole—a shot of greater distance than we can accomplish with a mid-iron, but calling for just as much accuracy in the placing of the ball.

It is not typical stroke with the brassie. In ordinary circumstances we use the brassie as we do the driver. We adopt the same full swing in the endeavour to obtain length, and, if we are just within reach of the green, we hope that the ball will finish on it. Among the rank and file of golfers, the brassie shot is viewed as a speculation. Not many players have a real fancy for it.

They have long since come to the conclusion that the art of taking the ball clearly from the turf an almost straightfaced wooden club is one of the most difficult features of the game. "I never could hit a brassie shot and never shall," is a common remark as the frustrated individual puts the club back in the bag after one more failure. At any rate, it is essentially a club for a good lie, unless the player happens to be one of unusual skill.

SPOON, CLEEK AND DRIVING IRON.

Let us try something easier. Three clubs may be said to stand jointly next in power to the brassie. They are the spoon, the cleek and the driven iron. The golfer has to decide which of them he is going to make his stand-by for shots up to the pin which are beyond the range of the mid-iron. Where the average player is concerned—the person who does not hope to become a champion, although he is keen to improve to the limit of his capacity—I have no hesitation in recommending the spoon.

The cleek may be the best club of all for the purpose if the golfer concerned possesses the gift of being able to strike the ball absolutely accurately. Its narrow blade fits into a bad lie where no wooden club would be equal to the occasion. Moreover, the man who is master of the cleek can control the flight and run of the ball better with it than he can with a spoon.

It always seems to me, however, that the cleek is the club for an individual who has been pursuing the game from childhood and who has been brought up with this instrument as one of his playthings. It calls for confidence, flexibility of the golfing muscles, and accuracy of striking in a greater degree, I think, than any other club.

A DISTINCTION.

For the late beginner or anybody whose muscles are fairly well set, the spoon is an easier club to use. It should be distinctly shorter than the brassie and posssesed of a fairly stiff shaft. Every follower of the game knows that its face must have an appreciable loft. Assuming that it is a spoon of the strictly thoroughbred type, it will have a long face.

There are "spoons" with stumpy heads and small faces—rather more generously lofted than the thoroughbred type. At least, the people who own them often call them spoons. Distinctions in the nomenclature of clubs are sometimes only matters of fancy, but these squat, more or less square-headed wooden clubs—with a loft between that of a mid-iron and mashie—I would prefer to know as baffies, although the term "spoon" and "baffy" are frequently regarded as being synonymous.

The true spoon, I would say, has—in addition to its long face—the loft of a mid-iron. Being shorter in the shaft than the brassie, it will naturally necessitate the player standing nearer to the ball if he is to accomplish the shot successfully. He can tell with every club whether he is standing in the position for striking, and making sure that the full extent of the sole, from heel to toe, is resting on the turf.

If the heel is raised from the ground, he is standing too near. If the toe is cocked up, he is too far away. The shaft being shorter and the stance nearer, the swing with the spoon will be more upright than that with the brassie. It can, however, be a fairly full swing. The spoon is the easiest club in the bag with which to vary the swing. One may make the effort as full as for a driver shot, or reduce it to a half or three-quarter swing.

The broad sole of the club, combined with its lofted face, allow for some margin of error, and often a tolerably satisfactory shot is achieved where—with any other club in use—the result would be a bungle, since slight mistiming would result in an iron sticking into the ground, and would cause a straighter faced wooden club to smother the ball.

I have already referred to the baffy. Having a loft approaching that of the mashie, it obviously will not obtain the same distance as a spoon or a cleek, but it is a very valuable club to the person who is never at all sure of hitting the ball cleanly.

Its well set-back face inspires confidence. It makes the player feel that he really can hit the ball up with this club. It is probably useful when the lie is unfavourable, and the head of the club has to fit into a depression at the impact.

Frankly, it is not a sheet-anchor for a good player or one who is improving so steadily as to lead him take a cleek when the lie is not too good, or a spoon where he prefers it to a cleek. Still, the baffy is a help to the player who is content to get well on the way to the hole—if not quite there.

I have already referred to the driving iron—or, as it is sometimes called, the driving mashie—as an alternative to the cleek or the spoon. It has come into a good deal of favour because a lot of people like its comparatively broad face, which is considerably deeper than that of the cleek.

It is important to see that the driving iron has a little loft—not much, but sufficient to be definite. The longest iron shot of all is to be obtained with a straight-faced driving iron, and, as a result, one sees this kind of club fairly often on the links. But it is certainly the most difficult shot of all, and is hardly worth trying except in the case of a first class player.

A slightly-lofted driving iron, however, is probably easier to use than a cleek, and, in some circumstances, can be employed more profitably than a spoon. If you have these two, you do not need a cleek at all.

WHAT IS A CHINA PONY?

I.

Strange Eohippus, parent of the race
Of equine friends that twice a year amuse us,
Would that thou had'st possessed the saving grace
To brand thy Chinese foals, that now confuse us,
With some unique, imperishable mark,
Permitting recognition in the dark.
Had they but been endowed with gift of speech,
Eftsoon might we classification reach:
By purity of accent, firm decreed,
Know them from interloping, strange cross-breed.

II.

Think of the mischief wrought of this neglect
To mark thine offspring plain from other breeds.
Behold Race Club Committees, quite select,
In mental agony. Soon must they needs
Locate some seer, some oracle of old,
By whom the vital difference shall be told.
Else have recourse to prayer. A litany
May soon assail our ears. It will be—
"Lord, save us from the griffin that is phony:
And send us but the pukka China pony!"

III.

.....Perissodactyl of the Eocene,—
With four anterior digits, three behind,—
Bethink thee how much better 'twould have been
Had'st thou, for benefit of racing kind,
But marked thy China seed, throughout posterity,
With toes thus cunningly arranged. In verity,
Heads would ache less, along the China coast,
Especially in Race Clubs. None could boast
That they, who shall select, must each turn sinner
And bar, as cross-bred, ev'ry likely winner!

R. R. L. F. in the "Peking & Tientsin Times."

Peps

For THROAT, CHEST & LUNGS

To ward off coughs, colds, and night chills, and to protect throat, chest and lungs against climate and disease, everybody needs Peps.

As Peps tablets dissolve in the mouth they give off medicinal fumes that carry soothing and healing benefits to the entire breathing system. Inflammation or soreness in the throat or bronchials is quickly allayed, coughs and colds are nipped in the bud, and the chest and lungs are strengthened against Bronchitis, Asthma, and Pneumonia.

all medicine vendors.

I.P. 222

A PINE FOREST IN EVERY HOME

Agents:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

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THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

What book title could be more attractive to English readers than "Men and Horses I Have Known"? It is given by the Hon. George Lambton to a volume which he has appearing with Thornton Butterworth. Mr. Lambton is a gentleman rider of considerable fame, a well-known trainer, and a familiar figure in the hunting field. This enables him to recall great thoroughbreds, thrilling finishes, and tight corners in the hunting field. His social position as a member of the House of Durham has also brought him into contact with many celebrities.

***

With the centenary of the death of Byron, which occurs this month, interest in his life and works steadily increases. Appropriately, there is appearing a book from the pen of Professor S. C. Chew, already well-known for his studies of the poet, entitled "Byron In England"—His Fame and After-Fame. The author shows how the fluctuations in Byron's renown have gone hand in hand with changes in current thought, and casts some light upon shifting ethical standards, religious tenets, political opinions and literary tastes. The Bibliography appended to the book, which is published by Mr. Murray, is far fuller than any other yet issued, and covers a vast field of research.

***

"Murder and Its Motives" is the title of a book which that clever novelist, Miss Tennyson Jesse, has written for Heinemann. She divides the world into two classes, those who consider murder to be the most curious phenomenon of human nature, and admit a vivid interest in it, and those who, while secretly thrilled, disclaim any such interest and condemn it as morbid. Perhaps Miss Tennyson Jesse's book may appeal to both groups of readers, or she hopes so. She divides the motives for murder into six classes and illustrates each by discussing a famous crime.

***

Mr. John Murray is publishing the "Adventures and Reminiscences of Major-General Sir Francis Howard, K.C.B." It is rather a long title, but then Sir Francis has had a full, varied, and adventurous career. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1866 and saw service in the Jowaki campaign, of which younger people may never have heard. They have, however, heard of the Afghan war, the Soudan war, the South African war and the Great War, in all of which Sir Francis Howard took part. His job, a large one, in the Great War, was the supervision of the New Armies.

***

At a time when much interest is centred in Russian affairs, Captain Francis McCullagh's book "The Bolshevik Persecution of Christianity," will be read with interest, for he not only presents the proofs of this persecution, but also gives a full account of the Cieplak trial at which he was present from the day it opened till it closed with four sentences of death. No such exhaustive account of this celebrated trial has so far been published in any language. The book, which Mr. Murray will publish, also deals with the general situation in Russia from a religious point of view.

***

Sir George Greenwood, who has made a special study of the Turks, has a book about them appearing with Messrs. C. Palmer. He emphasizes the two important facts that the Turk has returned to Europe and that the meaning of this must in years to come concern not only the Balkans but Europe as a whole. Sir George thinks, in fact, that we are now face to face not with the Old Turk, but with the Young Turk, a much more chauvinistic person. The book has a preface by Sir Edward Noble, who comments on it as a protest and a warning for the world at large.

IRELAND'S STORY

"The History of Ireland." By Stephen Gwynn. Macmillan. 12s. 6d.

Irishmen have been so busy making history that they might well be excused for not finding time to write it. Not the least hopeful sign of the new era is that the historians are almost as active as the politicians. Amid the alarms and excursions of civil war scholars like Mr. Eoin MacNeill, Mrs. Stopford Green, and Professor Curtis, have been patiently disentangling the ravelled threads of our early history unperturbed by the rattle of snipers' rifles that served as an accompaniment to their labours. Dublin Irregulars took it upon themselves 12 months ago to blow up Mr. Gwynn's house with a land mine on the ground that he was guilty of what they described as the crime of "nonsympathy." Mr. Gwynn returns good for evil by presenting his countrymen, including the Irregulars, with the first adequate review of the whole field of Irish history.

Though the book does not make pretensions to be a work of original research, it is a good deal more than "a summary outline," which is all the author claims for it in his preface. Hitherto the difficulty with all popular Irish histories has been that it was impossible to see the wood for the trees. These authors were cobblers rather than artists, and the principle upon which they acted was to stitch together the largest possible number of facts, with scant regard for nice questions of proportion, or for their relative value as illustrating the play of political and social forces. Even Mr. Gwynn, practised hand as he is, finds it no easy matter to cram a quart into a pint pot, and his book would have lost nothing had he refused to crowd his canvas with so much detail. But he does get as none of his predecessors did, the impression of continuity and development, and though the tale is necessarily long and involved, we carry away from these pages a new sense of its dramatic unity.

Another good service rendered by Mr. Gwynn is his refusal to set up a standard of values based on existing political controversies, and his insistence that in passing judgment upon men and events it is neither good history nor even good politics to ignore the point of view of another age. He has no illusions about Elizabethan statecraft, Cromwellian exploitation, or the monstrous injustice of the Penal Laws, but in dealing with these factors he relates them to the special circumstances of their time, a departure which if it outrages violent partisans on both sides has been received by the mass of Irish readers in a fashion that shows they recognize the time has come when the first duty of a popular historian is not to uatter patriotic prejudices, but to face facts boldly however unpleasant they may be.

The handling of contemporary events is no bad test of the power of a writer to interpret the past, and Mr. Gwynn's narrative of the last 30 years, from the Home Rule campaign to the setting up of the Free State, is admirable in its precision, balance, and detachment. To have written a book of this kind at the present juncture is not only a service to scholarship, but to the State.

"THE FLYING DRAPER"

"The Flying Draper." By Ronald Fraser. (Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Fisher Unwin has never lighted upon a more original First Novel than this one. Whether it is want of complete clearness of thought, or simply lack of practice in story-writing, is hard to say; the fact remains that the difficult thing attempted all but succeeds, but not entirely. The book goes off more and more into a vague and ever vaguer mysticism, a little more obscure than the author probably intended. He seems undecided whether to make a Beresford-cum-Wells imaginary flight, of ingenuity rather than seriousness, or to follow that forlornest hope, the expression of the inexpressible. The work is enormously suggestive in some parts, highly entertaining in others, and a most interesting attempt all through. When the author (who has a mature style and rich vocabulary) shall have given more attention to the homogeneous quality which should fuse his vision with his story, he will write a novel which should be remarkable indeed.

LAST OF HER RACE

The Great Career of the Cutty Sark

[*By H. M. Tomlinson.*]

"The Log of the Cutty Sark." By Basil Lubbock. (Glasgow: Brown and Son. 16s.

The last, and the best. As Mr. Lubbock tells us, "next to the Victory, the most interesting survivor of the days of sail is undoubtedly the famous tea and wool clipper, Cutty Sark." In fact, perhaps those sailing ships are the only two whose names are at all familiar to the public. The Suez Canal was opened when the Cutty Sark was launched, in 1869, and the clippers were doomed. That masterpiece, built at Dumbarton—undoubtedly she was the fortunate creation of genius—was too late to get a chance to break records in the race home from China. Her first masters, excellent seamen, never discovered that they had under them anything more than an exceptionally fine ship. But she was much more than that. It was not until Captain Woodget, after showing his quality in one voyage in the little Coldstream, was appointed to the Cutty Sark by John Willis ("Old White Hat"), with instructions to "drive her," that it was discovered she was—well, let us say, of the same nature as an ode of Keats. There were numbers of fast steamers working in 1890, but so late as that year—which shows how recently at sea the Elizabethan era closed—the fastest ship on the seas was the Cutty Sark. She has left the P. & O. mail steamer astern, and, with her 17 knots and more when she was enjoying the wind, of course that was not so very difficult.

Woodget seems to have divined her remarkable nature at once. To see what that was, inspect the illustration in Mr. Lubbock's book, where the Cutty Sark is shown passing the Cimba, another fast clipper. The Cimba has reefed her top-gallant sails, but Tam O'Shanter's witch is close-hauled with her royals set, and appears to be skimming away in weather which would make the timid give one glance seaward and then crawl below. Woodget was happily married to the witch which gave Tam the fright of his life. During the 10 years when she was in his command she was never hove-to. When she was running, with wind and seas astern which daunted even her crew, it was Woodget's way, knowing his ship, to hang on with just so much canvas that she would slip out of the grasp of the following combers. She seemed, in fact, to exult in heavy weather, though she could also ghost along with the best, but only a man with a heart of bronze would have dared to invoke the magic of a witch in the southern ocean. Here is a delightful picture of Woodget at work, quoted by Mr. Lubbock from a letter by an officer of the Cutty Sark:—

It was a pleasure to see the "old man" in dirty weather. He fairly revelled in it. With one side of his moustache jammed into his mouth, and hanging on to the weather rigging, I can see him now, his sturdy figure in yellow oilskins and long leather sea-boots, watching aloft and hanging on till the last moment. He gave all his crew complete confidence in him, and I never remember seeing him anything but calm in dirty weather.

Mr. Lubbock tells us that most of the tea clippers were very ticklish ships to handle in a big following sea, but that, properly canvassed, the Cutty Sark would run before the heaviest of the westerlies with very small helm, would keep her poop dry, and would bear driving as no other ship which ever crossed royal yards.

I am one of the fortunate who knew the Cutty Sark in Woodget's day, and it would be ridiculous of me to suppose that any living editor would give me the space to run loose on that precious intimacy. Besides, Mr. Lubbock has done it. He has written with gusto, and as length, and with astonishing patience and a pertinacity which has left unransacked any likely corner. He has preserved in this eulogy all the evidence which exists of the most remarkable merchant sailer created in a British shipyard. The general public may not know it, but we are deeply indebted to Mr. Lubbock, the historian of an era of British shipping which has passed. Mr. Conrad, in his narrative of the voyage of the Narcissus, has added to the body of our literature a vision of a time at sea which else would have been forgotten; and of that same period Mr. Lubbock has patiently sought and preserved all the intimate things, going fast now, of a sea-time of which this generation knows less than it knows of Tutankhamen.—The "Observer."

BERTHA

"Lummox." By Fannie Hurst. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

This is not only the best novel we have had from America for at least a decade; it is one of the best novels in English we have read for years, and may easily, in the future, mark an epoch in our fiction as distinctly as did "Esthers Waters." Miss Hurst has taken the modern method, invented by Miss Richardson and developed since by many writers, some of far greater talent than the originator, and has made of it beauty and wonder. Her great advantages over such authors as Mr. Lawrence or Mr. James Joyce is that she has an affection, a zest for life; and that we never suspect her of dramatising herself.

Lummox—a clumsy woman—is Bertha, born in America from unknown parents. She is a domestic servant when the book opens, and she is that when it ends; but her adventures, both in range and intensity, could not be more vivid had she followed a hundred occupations. We do not only get Bertha's story — we get the story of the families she has served—the Farleys, the Muslin-ers, the Fallensteins, the Oessetrichs, and finally the genial, homely, happy Meyerhogens. There are dreadful interludes when Bertha goes back to the horrible sailors' doss-house where she was brought up; and one almost too dreadful when she lives with Silly Willy, because he is the manservant at the Bixby's, who adopted her illegitimate baby when he was 17 days old. The larger part of the book, however, is concerned with Bertha in service, and with the lives of the families as they appear to her and to her friend Helga, who is with her at the Farleys' and the Oessetrichs'. Miss Hurst is not unfair to the mistresses: she has no object but to make pictures, and to leave the reader to draw the contrast between Bertha, real, human, natural, and her employers, who have too much money or too much leisure or too little imagination.

Bertha is one of those happy (or miserable—it depends how you look at it) people who have music and laughter and poetry in the soul and have no means of expression, not even words. Yet this is untrue; she can express herself in life, and she does so by patient, unrewarded heroism, by tenacious fidelity, by keeping true always to the sane and lovely things of life. Miss Hurst makes her quite credible; and in no situation does she behave other than naturally. "Lummox" is full of incident—sometimes tragic and horrible; but the book itself, in spite of some evil things, is calm and beautiful. Occasionally Miss Hurst overwrites a little—it is the great danger of her methods, but at the important moments of her story, whether in dialogue or description, she is always magnificently equal to her task. Helga's death-scene, the quarrels between Mrs. Wallenstein and her mother-in-law, the night-club chapter (alone containing more "stuff" than a dozen popular novels, the amazing picnic of the Musliners, when Bertha dances—are a few of the more memorable episodes that cling to the memory.—The "Observer."

THE GREATNESS OF OLIVE SCHREINER

A Beautiful and Moving Story

By Wilson K. Midgley.

"The Life of Olive Schreiner." By S. C. Cronwright Schreiner. Fisher Unwin. 21s.

The son of a German shoemaker, passing through London on the way to his mission field in South Africa, met a young girl whose face he had seen in a dream before he left home. The brilliant little drawing-room lady bore him 12 children in bullock carts or mud houses before she sought refuge from life in a convent. Her husband failed at everything, even at being a missionary, but their children because a great force for righteousness in the days when Rhodes and his crew were soaking South Africa in materialism. Their daughter Olive put into one novel more of South Africa than has ever been written elsewhere.

No wonder she put the Brontës among the greatest women of history, for her history was strangely similar to theirs. She was driven to living as an underpaid and ill-qualified governess in Boer families. From 16 to 65 she was tortured by asthma, and before she was 20 she had written her masterpiece, largely by moonlight. Candles were too dear, and she wrote at the window of a little room with a mud floor, in which she had made a channel to carry off the rain which came through the roof.

WRITING FOR 24 HOURS.

Orthodoxy beat upon her soul as asthma attacked her body. She fought them both with a virility which paralysed beholders. Her husband tells how in her wrath against some wrong she would shake her hands till her fingers clicked against each other, and would finally beat her head upon a table or a wall. This dreamer of the veldt saw visions only to be recalled in an intensity of mood which led her to write for 24 hours without food or to write page after page without knowing that there was no ink on her pen.

In her struggles for freedom of thought the passion which could electrify audiences with a sentence or address Cecil Rhodes in terms no other human being even ventured on was marvellously checked. To this child, drenched with emotion and agonised by perplexitics, former friends sent letters like this:—

> Richard and I have told the children that you are God's enemy, and that, though they have much to be grateful to you for, they cannot love God and you at the same time.

Her mother and other members of the family persecuted her (the word is her husband's) in the same way. Her answers are as firm as they are tender. The reality of her mystical experiences, her letter to a friend that since she was 14 "religion has been to me the one unending joy" show how needless is the torture human beings inflict on each other. The native question, the Boer War, and the Great War revealed the same cruel capacity of human beings on larger fields, and Olive Schreiner always turned up on the side of the tortured. It is easy to understand how the passion of revolt led her to feel the same joy in a young woman she had persuaded to leave off corsets as the evangelical feels in a brand plucked from the burning. But it tore her genius to pieces. She could not live in solitude, and she could not devote herself to her work among crowds, so after years of writing, rewriting and revising other work, her first book still stands alone in length and quality.—"Daily News."

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THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SHANGAAI MOTHER GOOSE

By Elizabeth Pepys.

MUNICIPAL MUSIC.

Hi diddle, diddle, Foa and his fiddle,
The notes rise high as the moon.
The Audience claps to hear such skill
And terms it an excellent tune.

EFFICIENCY.

Jack Sprat could eat no fat,
His wife could eat no lean.
And so they finished up each dish;
The servants thought it mean.

HOLIDAY PRAYERS.

Rain, rain, stay away,
All Shanghai wants to play.
If you'll leave our Easter gay,
You may come some other day.

THEY SAY.

Cross Patch, draw the latch,
Gossiping scandals spin.
Take a cup and fill it up
And call the neighbours in.
Tell them all, what a fall
From grace the pious had;
Hint so sly and tell a lie
Of servants lass and lad.
Thus you will always fill
Your drawing room each day,
For we try here in Shanghai
To find mean things to say.

PERILS OF SHANGHAI

By Elizabeth Pepys.

Breathless, panting, her strength ebbing fast, she clung desperately to the frail support. Bodies humped against her, borne onward by the resistless tide. Again and again she was all but torn away from her one hope of safety; yet with aching arms and numbed fingers she nerved herself to endure, not to allow herself to be swept away in the pitiless maelstrom.

"I must hold on, I must," she repeated again and again. "It must come soon." But no help came. With hat gone and clothing dishevelled, faint and exhausted, still she held on. At times it seemed as if deliverance was near but the hope was vain and the seething tide, bearing strong men, frail women and little children on its bosom, swept relentlessly on.

"I can't stand this much longer," she whispered faintly, her grip relaxing, her arms yielding to the cruel strain. Then, when the limit of endurance seemed at hand, there came a slight lessening of the buffeting tide. Summoning all her strength for the final, supreme effort, she loosed her hold of the pillar of the Safety Island to which she had been clinging, and forced her way on board a Number One Tram, at the Wing On corner.

THE WILLOW PATTERN

First Appearance in England

Chinese porcelain plates painted in pale and deep blue were imported into our country in large quantities during the latter half of the 18th century by our Eastern merchants. These plates aroused the admiration and also the jealousy of our potters, who at once began to use them extensively as patterns in decorating our earliest china wares. It is generally conceded by collectors that a man named Thomas Minton engraved our earliest willow pattern about the year 1780 for a master potter at Caughley, in Salop. Wedgwood, Spode, and Adams produced a similar design with modifications very soon after, so that there are now an endless variety of willow plates, all having the pronounced characteristics of the original, but with marked differences in detail. A curious feature about willow ware is that it is nearly always printed in underglaze blue, although, strange to relate, our Turkish sisters prefer it in funereal black. And certainly nothing else has conveyed such a charming and ever-interesting tale. Young and old are intrigued with the figures and design on the plates. So far as research has been able to prove, there exists no Chinese design with the bridge or the doves floating in the air, from which it may be concluded that the story of the wicked Mandarin and his daughter Koonyshee is entirely mythical.

THE STORY THE PICTURE TELLS.

The palace in the right hand of the picture in the centre of the plate is where the Mandarin and his only daughter lived after his wife had died. He took with him his secretary Chang; and therein lay the whole trouble and the foundation of this immortal story, for the motive is a love far above ordinary human affection. At sunset Koonyshee used to linger in the garden to see Chang. Their clandestine meetings were unfortunately discovered. Chang was dismissed and the daughter shut up in a room overlooking the sea. One day while feeling very desolate, her attention was aroused by a half cocoanut shell with a miniature sail floating gently past. By the aid of her parasol she was able to recover it, and in it she found a bead she had given to her lover. This was ample evidence that he had launched the vessel. There was also a piece of bamboo paper inside inscribed, "Cast your thoughts upon the waters as I have done and I shall hear your words."

ORIGIN OF THE BRIDGE.

Meanwhile her father had selected for her what he thought was a more suitable husband. The feast of the betrothal was about to be celebrated, and Koonyshee felt like a netted bird. During the feast Chang gained entrance to her chamber and rescued her, after which we see them crossing the bridge. First comes Koonyshee, next Chang, and then the irate father with a whip in his hand to show his parental authority. They make good their escape in the small boat we see in the centre, meaning to reach Chang's island home in the upper part of the platter. But the wrath of the Mandarin was uncontrollable. He raised the whole country against them so that their lives were imperilled.

WHEN THE GODS TOOK PITY.

The gods, however, took pity on their distress and transformed their two bodies into the two immortal doves floating in the air, fit emblems of the loving constancy of their affections which had rendered them so remarkable in life that now they were to be undivided in death. W. R. Fleming, in Glasgow Herald.

A WIDE CHOICE IN WRAPS

MY HUSBAND SAYS

That ladies should always eat breakfast with their husbands, even if there's nothing about eggs to inspire brilliant conversation. I sometimes wish myself that they came in a greater variety of colours.

I really dislike rising so early, but he likes to have me pour his coffee. But he says he wishes I could remember the number of lumps he takes. He thinks that if I should commit that to memory at home it might sometime save embarrassment at hotels. He says it makes him nervous to see a waiter looking at us interrogatively. It makes him awfully cross, too, when the clerk rings up his room and says he can't read his signature and also the management likes to know the home address of guests.

My husband's aunt Julia says his signature looks like a worm in a fit, but I just love it on the checks he gives me. He says his aunt Julia will never see it on anything more important than Birthday Greetings.

Mrs. Swift says that personally she is much too humane to allow her husband to see her before seven in the evening or later, day light saving time, and she says she would cheerfully divorce any man who dared to appear at home for lunch. But I love to eat lunch with my husband and besides I always need him to do several errands for me in the afternoon. I think errands are so uninteresting and trying.—"Life."

EACH HIS OWN STORY

When spring begins to bloom in hat shop windows and the souls of the romantic, the question of life's possibilities seems to present itself more warmly than ever for discussion. Unrest, divine or simply natural, fills the breasts of many mortals, and some of them write rather touchingly to others, whom they imagine to be more powerful or, perhaps, just a little cleverer than themselves, and say how deadly dull their surroundings are, how they long for change, and how much obliged they would be if they were put in the way of accomplishing those higher destinies to which they are sure they were born. Generally, the person who writes is a woman—although men have been known to set forth their discontent in this fashion—and she catalogues her charms, and lists her qualities, and suggests where they could be employed most advantageously to the end that the world may enjoy a fuller and richer contact with her and she with the world, for the betterment of both.

What we have inside our own foolish heads and hearts is what decides our stories, chapter by chapter. Of what use is romance to the woman who does not know it when it is before her? Where is the tang of adventure to the man whose perceptions are dull or commonplace? Even the "bright face of danger"—and no face is brighter to the high-mettled—may not kindle an answering fire in the veins of the sluggish. Only the seeing mind will find the reflexion of the whole sky in a dewdrop and every good and evil fortune flesh is heir to behind the vague eyes of the newly born. Yet, there they are, and very merry we should be with that old joke-lover, Fate, about it, for anything under the sun may be going to happen to any one of us in any place at any moment.

DRAMA AND ROMANCE EVERYWHERE.

Dowsabella need not leave the farm in search of her particular sip from destiny's swift current It is quite as likely to be found in the ripples of the brook as drawn from the taps of the city's water-system. Colin, in a torn blue shirt, is really more pleasing than George in a high, shiny collar and the latest thing in orange leather Oxford ties, both swains being otherwise clothed as decency dictates. But, unless she has some vision, she will not see it so. She will go panting after the unattainable and leave her story behind her. And when the unattainable has been unattained (for George likes "some class" in his ladies, and city jobs have a way of slipping from under one), she may feel that life has played her a scurvy trick. In reality, it is she who has played a scurvy trick on life. To marry Colin, to bring up a happy country family, to help to keep fine beasts in condition and good crops growing—that was well worth the bountiful nature of Ceres herself. But Dowsabella, unable to "perceive the outward and the inward," turned her back upon it and went out to seek her fortune elsewhere.

TRAGEDY AND COMEDY IN EVERYBODY'S WALLET.

What is fortune? Can anybody get more out of life than he is prepared to put into it? To all of us come two, and to most of us three, of the great facts of existence—birth, love, and death—quite without respect to our dwelling-places. Ambition, jealousy, hatred, and malice, generosity, self-sacrifice, sincerity, and fair dealing—all the ingredients of the characters out of which plots are made—are in us and our neighbours. Can any story in the world strike variations from other chords? It's all in the way we look at things. We can find the most exquisite romance, the most poignant drama, the most arduous adventures wherever we are. We have only to be the sort of person who knows them for such. The every-day business of life can be as noble as we please, as adventurous, as interesting. Tragedy and comedy are to be got out of everybody's wallets, and we should not have to wait till an outsider whispers their names in our ears before we recognize them for what they are and for what they may mean to us.

There are sometimes uncommonly long waits between the acts of our lives, but if we get up and go out we may find our places taken, or that the play we left is beginning again without us. There are often exceedingly dull chapters in our stories. But so there are in all human histories—and who knows what may be coming on the next page? Jack, abandoning his light-ship post for a pirate's career may succumb to a late attack of measles, while his partner, Jeb, patiently doing his duty single-handed, may be swept into the public eye and honours by his gallant conduct to storm-wrecked mariners. One never can tell! But to each of us is given the possibility of hero or heroineship—not always offered to us as we have imagined it would be, but as we learn it of life, often in performing the commonplace task.

"Vogue."

MAHJONGG PARTIES IN THE SURF

The craze for Mahjongg so dominates Palm Beach that bathers carry the game out to sea with them on a raft, as the illustration shows.

THE RETURN OF THE TAILORED MODE

The Coat and Skirt Obligatory

The modistes of Shanghai have been assuring their patrons for some time that the severely tailored suit was on its way back to popularity, but it has been difficult to believe this with the large number of long coats, coatees and capes worn over the frock or coat dress. Now that spring is with us, however, the truth of the dictum seems unquestioned and although the rigidity of this costume was rebelled against at one time, there is no gainsaying the fact that it is appropriate for every daytime function and with various blouses and accessories is capable of infinite variation and very hard wear.

Reps, or covert cloth or for sports and country wear tweeds and cheviots, says the style expert. For the former cire ribbon or braids may be used but the latter materials demands the simplest possible cut, single or double breasted, with pockets the only trimming. To reduce the black tailored suit white pique collars or revers may be worn.

The silk kerchief comes right to the front here, with a pocket hanky to match. The kerchief for the country suit may be extra sized, drawn round the neck cravat fashion, or folded round the collars and down each side. Scarves tied in a dashing stock knot finish the neck very well too, and the ubiquitous white gardenia appears in the lapel.

The plainer the suit, the plainer its companion blouse, and a model always in good taste is very simple with a convertible collar which will button up if desired for a mannish tie. Thinner and fancier blouses tucked and trimmed with monograms or buttons become the lighter weight suit. Beige, brown, grey or even yellow suede gloves suit this mode and white gloves are permitted to the black. Rosy beige or tortoise is still good form for stockings and patent leather or calf-skin pumps with straps and medium heel. The cloche with the turn-down brim naturally finishes the picture and this should be felt, Milan or picot straw. The present ideal spring weather should bring out these suits at once, for their season is brief.

VOGUE'S EYE VIEW OF THE MODE

The long lace veil has been revived by Marthe Collot, truly an innovation, for the only veil worn recently has been an inch of cautious tulle to shade the eye.

Sets of hat and scarf, often with a parasol to match, are good in soft plaid silks for the country and in knitted wool frosted with gold or silver thread for the beach. The simple black satin frock, often combining both dull and shiny sides, has taken Paris by storm and, in New York, is second only to the tailored mode in smartness. Both have in them the essence of chic restraint.

We keep accentuating the brilliant silk handkerchief which is almost universally worn with tailored suits: sometimes placed snugly to outline the faultless lapels: sometimes knotted about the neck: sometimes hanging from the pocket.

The scarf, because of its greater flexibility in material and function, seems to have a long story ahead of it. At Palm Beach, brilliant scarfs accompanied white dresses: in Paris, it is all things to all women.

Stockings in coloured thread are now worn in Paris with the simple tailored costume. There is a whole series of them, varying in shade, all of them of English type.

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MAIL NOTICES

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per str. Hsin Peking, April 11. From Ningpo. Mr. J. Farmer.

Per str. Kaiping, April 11. From Chinwangtao. Mr. and Mrs. C. Loyd and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wattson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ross and child.

Per str. Whangpu, April 12. From River Ports. Mr. Garnet.

Per str. Luchow, April 12. From Tsingtao. Mr. Stuart K. Lupton.

Per str. Kiangan, April 12. From River Ports. Mrs. Woodey and child.

Per str. Sinkiang, April 12. From Hongkong. Mrs. Rowarth, Mrs. Davis.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, April 12. From Ningpo. Mr. F. R. Millican, Misses F. Henen, E. Palmer, E. Yames and Rev. F. Buck.

Per str. Kingsing, April 12. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. K. F. C. Watson, Mrs. Ford. **From Chefoo.** Mr. Corbett, Miss M. Severen.

Per str. Tatung, April 12. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Loureiro, Misses Loureiro.

Per str. Kutwo, April 12. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Benson and child, Miss James, French, Cameron, Turner, Messrs. Curzon, Melsin, Allen, Power, Salisbury, C. L. Conrady and One Italian Naval Rating.

Per M.M.S. Chambord, April 12. From Marseilles. Miss L. Linson, Mrs. Coublitsky, Messrs. Leymat, Guilly, Mr. and Mrs. Barreau and child, Messrs. Garstin, Font, Marcone, Mrs. Aroud, Mrs. Cerry, Mrs. Hoefnagels, Mr. Mack, Mr. and Mrs. H. Galvin, Mrs. Rogernikoff and child, Mr. Negroni. **From Colombo.** Sister Maris, Mr. and Mrs. Shevaldisheffer, Mr. and Mrs. Mitnikoff. **From Singapore.** Mr. Tye, Mr. and Mrs. L. Nantz and Mr. Albert. **From Saigon.** Messrs. Marquier, Villimagne, Bataille, A. H. Atkins, Leget, Theuvarin, Selwich, M. M. Colonnec, Le Bris, Derambone, Jestris. **From Hongkong.** Mr. and Mrs. Mefaul and child, Rev. Pères Souvey, Salleu, Miss L. Fzeyawa.

Per str. Hsinchang, April 13. From Hongkong. Mrs. Bok.

Per str. Loongwo, April 13. From River Ports. Messrs. G. W. Sheppard, Zindel, Mr. and Mrs. Clair and child, Mr. H. F. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mills, Mr. E. R. Palmer, Lieut.-Comdr. C. Adam, Mr. M. S. Block.

Per str. Ngankin, April 14. From River Ports. Mr. A. L. Dawson.

Per str. Shuntien, April 14. From Tientsin. Mrs. McEachran. **From Chefoo.** Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm, Master Malcolm, Miss Ruscuf.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, April 15. From Ningpo. Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Rickards, Mrs. A. Zakrison, Messrs. Z. Zakrison, E. Becker, Diemdriades, Shoemaker, Dr. A. C. Price.

Per str. Woosung, April 15. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beno and child, Mr. Nightingle, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Kirkhope, Mr. A. Macmillian, Mrs. E. Kaspusheva, Mr. Mackay, Miss L. E. Harris.

Per str. Kiangshun, April 15. From River Ports. Mr. Sterey, Three Sisters of Charity.

Per str. Luenho, April 16. From River Ports. Mr. Geforth, Mr. and Mrs. Glover, Miss Barton.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, April 16. From Ningpo. Mrs. D. Zimmerman, Mrs. H. K. Wright, Messrs. H. K. Wright, H. M. Briggs, C. W. Gay, F. C. Wilcox and R. Wilcox.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Hsin Peking, April 11.—For Ningpo.—Messrs. Wright, J. Frost, Dr. A. C. Price.

Per str. Lucnyi, April 11—For River Ports.—Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Maitland.

Per str. Fengtien, April 12.—For Tientsin.—Messrs. W. R. Dockrill, A. R. Bennett, T. Inonye, W. Downie, J. Ince, Mrs. Haas. **For Chefoo.**—Miss Lespinasse.

Per str. Soochow, April 12.—For Tsingtao.—Mrs. A. L. Austin, Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad and child, Mr. A. B. Park, Miss Cunning.

Per str. Luchow, April 13.—For Hongkong.—Mr. J. C. Finch. **For Swatow.**—Messrs. E. T. Basha, G. Gossour.

Per P. & O. S. Nellore, April 13.—For London.—Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Carr and child, Miss C. and Master W. Carr, Mrs. M. Waddell and child, Master J. Waddell, Misses L. and W. Waddell. **For Marseilles.**—Mr. D. D. Brano, Miss L. Douglas. **For Colombo.**—Mr. A. Rozario. **For Hongkong.**—Messrs. F. A. Hooley, E. W. Hazzard, R. E. Ost.

Per str. Sinkiang, April 13.—For Amoy.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Thatcher, Mrs. Buss, Messrs. Orloff, Mlasheo. **For Canton.**—Mrs. W. C. A. Phahl and child, Mr. P. C. A. Prahl.

Per str. Tatung, April 14.—For River Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. A. P. C. Hicks and two children.

Per str. Chengtu, April 15.—For Newchwang.—Mrs. C. Partridge and child.

Per str. Kashing, April 15.—For Canton.—Mr. and Mrs. Tateishi and child.

Per str. Ngankin, April 15.—For River Ports.—Lt. Pont, Seven French Sailors, Mr. and Mrs. de Cartier.

Per P. & O. S. China, April 15.—For London.—Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Adams, Lt.-Comdr. C. K. Adam, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Boyde and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Bolitho, Master R. Bolitho, Mr. W. Donald, Miss H. Dunphy, Mr. F. Dunstan, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Fisher and child, Captain D. Fraser, Mr. T. Ferguson, Mrs. J. and Miss D'A. Graham, Mr. J. W. F. Gerbarz, Mr. and Mrs. N. Harrison and child, Master Harrison, Eng.-Comdr. H. L. Harvey, Messrs. J. Munro, A. McNay, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Millward, Master W. Millward, Misses K. and M. Millward, Miss R. Norman, Mrs. B. de B. Newcomb and two children, Captain and Mrs. F. G. W. Nowbery, Miss Newbery, Mrs. K. H. Pennell, Mrs. L. R. Rees, Misses N. and B. Rees, Master D. Rees, Mrs. A. S. Russell and child, Mr. J. Sanders, Lt. Commissioner and Mrs. W. Stevens, Master and Miss Stevens, Surg-Lt.-Comdr. L. F. Strugnell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Turner, Mr. H. W. Tamlyn, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Utting, Mr. T. F. Ratti. **For Marseilles.**—Messrs. W. J. Brownbill, A. H. Evans, K. F. Jeffreys, E. Kregreth, Miss A. C. Loggin, Mr. A. G. Nugent, Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Polhill, Misses V. and H. Polhill, Messrs. N. Smith, W. Standing. **For Colombo.**—Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Bryson, Master Bryson. **For Singapore.**—Messrs. T. Goonamal, M. Gell, Mrs. E. Knipschildt, Misses I. and T. Knipschildt, Pendall, Lainel Abidin, Mr. L. Moose, Piahbinta Mowcen. **For Hongkong.**—Rev. H. A. C. Allen, Messrs. B. D. F. Beith, W. E. Costain, J. N. G. Gibbons, Mrs. M. Marges, Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Malcolm, Master Malcolm, Mr. A. W. Van Der Star.

Per str. Shuntien, April 16.—For Tientsin.—Mr. and Mrs. T. Yamazoe and two children, Mr. F. C. Henley. **For Chefoo.**—Mr. J. McMullan. **For Weihaiwei.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Oswald and child, Miss Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Ryde, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Hughes, Three Naval Ratings.

BIRTHS

ANDERSON.—On April 15, 1924, at 13 Kungping Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Anderson, a daughter (stillborn).

NIEUWENHUYS.—On April 11, 1924, at 393A Avenue Joffre, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Nieuwenhuys—Christensen, a son. Hongkong and Kobe papers please copy.

PASSIKIDES.—On April 11, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Passikides, a son.

SONT-DE-BOER.—On April 13, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Sont-de-Boer, a daughter.

WHITTAKER.—On April 10, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Whittaker, a son, Robert Edward.

MARRIAGE

JENSEN—ZVIAGIN.—On April 15, 1924, at the Union Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. A. N. Rowland, Gustav Schoyen Jensen to Sophie Zviagin.

DEATH

HUTCHISON — On April 12, 1924, at Holmbury, England, Katherin Mary, third daughter of the late John D. Hutchison, of Shanghai, of heart failure.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Apr. 11	30.06	59.4	E	1	63.1	61.4	71.8	54.1	O.
,, 12	29.96	61.1	S S W	1	68.9	64.6	74.5	58.6	O.
,, 13	29.92	62.1	Calm	0	63.5	62.6	82.2	57.9	O. M.
,, 14	29.90	63.3	S E	1	70.0	66.2	87.3	55.8	O. M.
,, 15	29.78	64.8	E	1	70.0	66.4	87.8	55.8	B. C.
,, 16	29.84	66.0	N	2	59.9	58.8	60.8	58.3	O. D.
,, 17	30.27	61.7	N	2	51.8	43.5	55.8	49.6	O.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Apr. 10	54.6	58.2	74.4	63.8	Nil.	0.57
,, 11	55.0	57.2	69.0	68.6	Nil.	0.07
,, 12	61.0	46.5	73.4	62.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 13	60.4	41.0	78.0	55.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 14	56.6	45.0	82.6	56.2	Nil.	Trace
,, 15	59.8	52.4	83.6	58.6	Nil.	0.43
,, 16	53.0	51.4	71.0	61.8	Nil.	0.72

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